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History of

# Stoney Creek

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH



Written by Mrs. Dorothy Futrell Sullivan



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The History  
of  
Stoney Creek Original  
Free Will Baptist  
Church

Written by Mrs. Dorothy Futrell Sullivan

Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church, 752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, North Carolina, is located four miles northeast of Goldsboro, North Carolina, at the intersection of NC 111 North and Stoney Creek Church Road.

The date of the organization of Stoney Hill Free Will Baptist Church, as it was formerly known, is not known, because we have no records before 1908. The earliest church deed we had was 1884. We had always taken it for granted that this was how old our church was, but older residents have said they know it was prior to 1860.

Elliott Futrell found records from a study of religious leaders recorded at the Craven County Courthouse in North Carolina showing a Baptist Church on the hill at Stoney Creek in 1747, a branch off the Presbyterian Church of England. Could that have been our English General Baptist heritage?

The "Story of Kinston and Lenoir," written by Talmage C. Johnson and Charles R. Holloman, copyright 1954, gives these interesting facts on page 144. The first Baptist Church in Dobbs County area, which was then a part of old Johnston County, was built in 1756 at Stoney Creek about four miles north of Modern Goldsboro, North Carolina. The land upon which the Stoney Creek Church was built was conveyed to the Baptist Society by David Clark. Footnotes, Johnson-Dobbs-Lenoir Index show it was entered in Book 4, page 88, of Johnston County Deeds which were destroyed by fire. It also was shown by index as entered in Book 10, page 512 of the Dobbs County Records also destroyed by fire. The church still stands (Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church) not more than 400 yards from the original site, and a part of the present building appears to have some of the original timbers in the original structure as part of it is put together with wooden pegs, this being the old sanctuary we use today.

Prior to the Revolutionary War the word "church" was only applied to the Church of England. Other churches were known only as Societies, the buildings were called meeting houses. In early days worshipers met in homes, barns or brush arbors. I have been asked to explain what a brush arbor is. This was the primitive way to make a shade without much cost. They were known as an open air shelter that would last through the whole summer. Small trees about eight inches in diameter were cut for posts around nine feet tall after one end was buried in the ground causing it to stand straight up. Enough posts were used to form a rectangular shelter. Split rails from trees were used to lay on the top of the posts where a v-shaped notch was cut to cradle the rail secure. This made a frame to lay more rails on about three feet apart where they piled limbs that were full of green leaves, making a comfortable shade. Benches were also made from small trees cut for the purpose. You know they could not be very comfortable, but they were not used to a plush way of life.

During the depression of the early nineteen thirties, I had the privilege of attending a revival held under a brush arbor. Our neighbor living on the west end of the Daw-Pate Road near Patetown hitched his mules to a two-horse wagon and took a load of the neighboring families to the Sunday afternoon services about two and a half miles away. The arbor was built where the old Novel Hill Public School once stood near Belfast on what older people called the Novel Hill Road. It is now called Tommy's Road and it must have been the first road we have a record of. It was said to be built in 1784 being about a mile west of Stoney Creek.

To build a church of any denomination required the permission of the Court from the County in which the building was to be erected. Since the courts were usually dominated by persons affiliated with the Church of England, who at that time were trying to destroy the Baptists, it was difficult for any group to get permission to build. Our first church building was known as a meeting house on the banks of the eastern side of Stoney Creek.

In those early days there were no facilities for getting an education, particularly in the county. There were some paid private schools and occasionally a free public school was taught for two or three

months in the winter. The districts were large and the children had to walk as far as four miles to attend. Our first church building was used for this purpose. Worship services were held on weekends and school during the week. There was just one teacher, and everyone was in one room. Some of the older students would help with the younger children.

Around 1880, due to the growth in membership, a larger place for worship was needed. Across the road on the opposite hill from the Crumpler Cemetery stood a vacant larger church, the Ironside Baptist. Elder Elias Holland was pastor but services lasted only a short while. This building was secured and the framing was moved to a strip of land given by Exum and Martha Howell, where our old sanctuary now stands. It was joined to our building making a larger sanctuary for worship services. Kerosene reflector lights were installed enabling night services. This information was given to Lillie Mae Sasser in 1955, by Mrs. Sallie Montague who was 95 years old at the time.

When the first English settlers came to North America, they found Indians living in tepees in the Carolinas. These Indians, like most other primitive people, were deeply religious. They had developed a system of religious practices and beliefs in many gods, all in human shape. They would assemble together for worship of prayer, songs, and giving of offerings to their gods. They believed in immortality of the soul. Then when death came the soul would depart from the body and go to a place of perpetual bliss, or descend into a hole of fire to burn forever. While interesting within itself, this religious practiced by the Indians has no historical significance as far as the English settlers were concerned.

Sources of travel were very slow at this time--they walked the Indian trails or rode horses. Some trails were wide enough to travel with wagons. There were no roads. The first road was built in 1784 about a mile to the west of the church and about a mile to the east was an Indian trail--the Occanceehii, where most of our forefathers traveled. The Indians and those early settlers from England chose to establish their homes near a river or creek because water was another means of travel--by boats or canoes and even by floating logs. These ways of travel were very important to the settlers.

The rivers and creeks that were used for travel were not filled with debris as they are today. This debris that has been allowed to accumulate has caused a wide swampy area with a small flow of water trickling down the middle. They knew this was their main means of travel so they kept the fallen trees and limbs cleared away from the main water ways. Beavers were not as plentiful as they are today cutting down trees and using them to dam up the streams. These dams stop the water from running, causing flooding in the area around and trees to drown.

A good water supply was a must in the homes for their personal needs such as bathing, cooking, and washing clothes as well as water for their livestock. They were blessed if they could find a spout of water springing up through the earth because most of these springs were known for the purity and coolness of the water. On a farm where my family lived in 1925 there was a spring where the men plowing in the fields away from the house would go for a drink of water when they took a break. It was on the side of the hill where a hole had been dug out under the flow of water coming out of the ground. They used a dipper made from a long necked gourd made for the purpose. It was left there hanging on a post or a broken down sapling for the next person to get a drink. The bowl of the long necked gourd would hold between a pint and a quart of water. They would cut a round hole in the bowl of the gourd and remove the seeds, then use it as a dipper to drink from.

A good water supply was needed to run their saw mills for sawing the timbers into lumber that was used to build bridges, homes and out buildings to protect their livestock. Water was needed to run



the grist mills that ground the grain that was used for feeding the animals. Corn was used for meal and wheat for flour that they made into bread for the family to eat. Most of their food supply was home grown. Hunting wild animals and fishing were enjoyable sports as well as a good food supply. Oxen, mules and horses were used to cultivate the fields where they grew their crops. This was before the machine age which came later.

Those early settlers who came from England to North Carolina brought most of their domestic livestock such as cattle, swine, sheep and goats with them for food as well as to start herds of their own. Religious freedom was not the only reason for leaving the old country but to seek a fortune and a place to make a better home for their families in this great country with its rich, fertile soil. They believed in Christianity as a way of salvation as was evident from their records. To show a minimum of interest in organized religion was the best way to avoid the bloody religious quarrels of England and Europe.

The Original Free Will Baptists are the spiritual descendants of the General Baptists who settled in North Carolina during the colonial period. These General Baptists were the earliest Baptists to settle in the colonies and were among the earliest organized religious group in America preceded only by the Quakers and Anglicans. The story of these early Baptists has often been overshadowed by the account of other later movements which swept through the settlement of North Carolina and the rest of the region known as the New England states. We hope the readers will remember that the early Free Will Baptist churches in North and South Carolina were not organized and pastored by men raised in the United States altogether, but by General Baptist ministers who came from London, England, which blends our history together. It is said that the General Baptist were in North Carolina as early as 1690.

Those early churches began to associate themselves together in a yearly meeting about the close of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1729 it consisted of twelve churches, 18 ordained ministers with 250 communicants. (Dr. Floyd Cherry says this is not documented, but could be true.)

The role of early leaders in any religious movement is regarded as supremely important because of the way they prepared for others to follow. The General Baptist movement in England was about 100 years old when it began to put down roots in North Carolina. A new beginning here was difficult because of the primitive conditions among those who chose to settle here. Without the bold leadership, the General Baptist messages might not have left the imprint on those who came to be known as the Original Free Will Baptists. Therefore, we should give some account of those early leaders in North Carolina who were called to preach the gospel and to gather congregations that were organized after the English General Baptist.

Some have fondly imagined that Paul Palmer was the founder of the Free Will Baptist in North Carolina. Could Paul Palmer have been the first to organize a group of Free Will Baptist worshippers at Stoney Creek or Stoney Hill as it was first known? From the things that I have found concerning his life there is a strong possibility.

The earliest known reference to Paul Palmer is found in the records of York County, Virginia. In 1717, he married Martha Hansford Hill, a widow and mother of two small children. She died during the first year of their marriage. Law suits brought on by his creditors and property disputes with two brothers-in-law prompted his move from Virginia to North Carolina. By 1719 he had settled in Perquimans precinct and married Johanna Taylor Jeffreys Petterson. She had been widowed twice and had much wealth, mainly real estate.

From 1719 to 1722, Paul Palmer was affiliated with the Perquimans monthly meeting of Friends known as the Quakers, but in July 1722 he requested a certificate of dismissal from the meeting. We assume that he become familiar with the General Baptist doctrine after his marriage to Johanna as she was the step-daughter of Benjamin Laker. Benjamin Laker was one of those early settlers in the Albemarle region of North Carolina being attracted by the prospects of acquiring modest wealth as well

as freedom of worship. He had been converted to the General Baptist views prior to the birth of his third child in 1667. Although there are no known reports of any persecution while in England, on June 30, 1684, he loaded his family and belongings aboard a ship for North Carolina and began the life of a planter.

There is little evidence that Laker was active as a General Baptist leader during his residence in Albemarle, but his interest in the Baptist heritage is evident from his “will” which listed certain books as the first items he bequeathed to his heirs. One was a copy of Thomas Grantham’s monumental volume entitled, “Christianismus Primitivus,” which dealt with the General Baptist doctrines. It is likely this copy as well as other valuable literature was brought from England. We should remember that in this absence of ministerial leadership, Baptists would meet for worship in private homes. In the Carolinas there was no legal restrictions against such meetings at that time.

Following Benjamin Laker’s death, a group of Baptists living in North Carolina wrote to their brethren in Staffordshire, England, stating their desire to be supplied with a ministry of books. This group of believers felt the need of spiritual leadership or printed material to guide their lives in an untamed wilderness. The loss of Laker as a stable leader could have prompted them to appeal to their friends in England. There were no Baptist ministers in the Albemarle area or in neighboring Virginia to whom they could turn at this time.

Baptist families had settled in this region as early as the late 1600’s and some of them had likely been meeting for worship. There is no reference to the existence of a Baptist church prior to the beginning of Paul Palmer’s labor in this region. Palmer began his ministry in the precinct adjoining his home in Perquimans, north of the Albemarle Sound. We find he had been preaching and settling churches as early as 1727.

About this time, Palmer began to attract attention as an evangelist in Chowan County. There is no record that he ever pastored a church, but that he was satisfied to preach in homes that were opened to him, and possibly under brush arbors, erected for the purpose. These groups of worshipers were referred to as Societies in those days. A petition had to be filed with the Court of the County where a church was to be established.

It is said that Paul Palmer was not an educated man as most of the early settlers did not have the opportunity to attend a school of higher learning. He was blessed with a great ability and revival seemed to follow his ministry, being a very persuasive orator with a great desire to see souls saved. He was known for his energy and effectiveness as an evangelist and was regarded as a pioneer of the General Baptist movement in North Carolina. Palmer was an important figure in the history of the Original Free Will Baptist Church where he preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Savior of all mankind.

Paul Palmer was said to be a native of Maryland, United States of America. He was baptized by Owen Thomas at Welch Tract in 1732 and was ordained in Connecticut. Baptist historians have repeated this many times until this explanation of his early life is assumed to be correct. After his baptism and ordination he spent some time in New Jersey, then in Maryland and then back to North Carolina where he spent a useful life. He recognized a great need to reach people who seldom had the opportunity to hear the gospel. This could have caused him to willingly leave his home and family many times during his ministry up and down the eastern coast. Many doors were opened for Palmer with his message of general atonement and believers’ baptism. The message that Christ died for all mankind would appeal to many of these English settlers that had heard this same message in the Old Country and relished the opportunity to hear it again.

Since this is the area where Paul Palmer was actively engaged as early as 1734, it is likely that he had several disciples converted by his teachings. Together these men like Palmer preached, baptized and performed the work of the General Baptists. Paul Palmer's death was around 1742 with a record of more than 15 years of ministry.

Even though Palmer had been an effective evangelist he was not alone in his work. Joseph Parker began his ministry about the age of 25 as a co-worker of Paul Palmer who at this time was an older man. Parker was active in forming churches and was a great help to strengthen their growth. He was a man of considerable natural ability as well as a willing faithfulness in his ministerial work in which he spent many years. In fact Paul Palmer and Joseph Parker's lives reveal them as leaders, deeply committed to their calling.

Facts that have been handed down by word of mouth are that Elders Paul Palmer and Joseph Parker organized a Baptist Society on the hill at Stoney Creek known as Stoney Hill. As I have mentioned before, records at Craven County Courthouse show a Baptist Church on the hill at Stoney Creek in 1747. By 1750 the General Baptists in the providence of North Carolina were thriving.

During the early years of 1750, Joseph Parker journeyed south of the Tar River to an area of Dobbs County where he later settled and spent a great part of his years as a General Baptist minister. Then he would have found a General Baptist Church at Stoney Creek in the northern part of the present Wayne County which had as a pastor George Graham, who likely had been ordained by Paul Palmer. This I copied from Dr. Michael Pelt's "History of the Original Free Will Baptist." Sounds as if a congregation of worshipers had already been organized. This must have been after Joseph Parker filed a petition with the Court of the County to build a church at Stoney Hill. As mentioned before, a Baptist Society had previously been organized by Paul Palmer and Joseph Parker. This being the only explanation that Palmer could have been involved in the organization of our church since he died in 1742. We have no knowledge or under what circumstance he died nor where he was buried. We know he was living January 29, 1742 because he was summoned to appear at the March term of the Baltimore County Court but did not appear. The fact that his wife Johanna purchased land in her own name in June 1743 suggests he was no longer alive at this time.

The role of Joseph Parker as one of the founders of the General Baptist Churches in North Carolina drew attention as late as 1772 and 1773. He was still living in Dobbs County, gathering churches as he made his tour of those he had helped form as well as visits to other places outside this area.

In those days there were only a few churches in the rural district and these had preaching only once a month. There were but few educated ministers. Most were poor hard working men, toiling all week on their farms, then filling a preaching appointment on Sunday after walking several miles. They were consecrated men doing the Master's work without receiving a set salary. These Godly men did a great work and the Lord blessed their labor as the effects of their work that they performed so many years ago is visible today. As the old saying goes, "They gave their today for our tomorrow."

After all this historical background, I hope you can go along with my belief that this hill at Stoney Creek has been dedicated as Holy Ground, proclaiming Jesus Christ as our Savior for more than 260 years as Original Free Will Baptist.

"Free Will" means that man is free to act voluntarily and exercise his choice. The Free Will Baptist were first called "Free Willers" because they first believed in freedom of the will and human action. The early General Baptists had the same doctrine concerning God that the Original Free Will Baptists have today. Their early statement of faith shows they believed in one God who is supreme and that he is manifested in three persons who are equal in every way--God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Membership in Stoney Creek Church is open to Christians who share our common belief and who wish to serve God in and through our Church. There are three basic requirements for membership which are as follows: First, a person must be a professed believer in Jesus Christ. Second, a person must be baptized by immersion by a duly ordained minister. Third, a person must adhere to the doctrine and practice of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination and agree to our church covenant.

**Free Will Baptist Church Covenant**

*Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.*

*We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, the abuse of drugs, and to 'provide things honest in the sight of all men.'*

*We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and public worship and by self-denial, faith, and good words endeavor to 'grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

*We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the gospel; nor fail to give according to our ability for the support of the church and all its benevolent work.*

*We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to 'keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace', and to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.*

*We will everywhere hold Christian principles and obligations supreme, esteem it our chief business to make Christ known to the world, and constantly pray and toil that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.*

*To this end we agree to co-operate in the promotion of denominational institutions and enterprises, the support of the work of the local church, and the evangelization of the world.*

*May the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Pastors of Stoney (Hill) Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church**

Rev. George Graham in the early 1750's  
Rev. Sherrod Hamilton  
Rev. C. D. Howell  
Rev. Lemuel Troy Phillips  
Rev. Daniel Davis  
Rev. Jonathan Mozingo  
Rev. Will Howell  
Rev. J. W. Valentine  
Rev. Pat Lucas  
Rev. Richard Pierce  
Rev. Tyler Johnson  
Rev. Jim Worley  
Rev. Charlie E. Orton - 1908-1910, 2<sup>nd</sup> term 1912-1913  
Rev. George Washington Davis - 1910-1911  
Rev. G. C. Joyner - 1914, 2<sup>nd</sup> term 1920-1923  
Rev. N. B. Wall - 1914-1918  
Rev. Needham Sanders Lancaster - assistant Pastor and ordained August 1915,  
2<sup>nd</sup> term 1918-1920  
Rev. A. A. Wells -1923-1926  
Rev. W. H. Lancaster - 1926-1927, 2<sup>nd</sup> term 1931-1940  
Rev. W. L. Hart - 1927-1931  
Rev. Clarence F. Bowen - 1940-1945, 2<sup>nd</sup> term April 1975 - July 1978  
Rev. Clifton T. Rice - 1945-1952  
Rev. John W. Alford - 1952-Oct. 1957, 2<sup>nd</sup> term October 1959 -1960  
Rev. James A. Evans - 1957-1959  
Rev. Joseph Ingram - July 1960-October 1967  
Rev. Raymond Jones - October 1967 - October 1969  
Rev. Robert May - October 1969 - November 1969  
Rev. David Charles Hansley - November 1969 - July 1971  
Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark - July 1971 - March 17, 1975  
Rev. Bobby Bazen - July 1978 - July 1979  
Rev. Gary M. Bailey - July 1979

Ordained Original Free Will Baptist Ministers coming from Stoney Creek Church that we have record of today.

1. On July 26, 1913, it was agreed to grant Bro. Needom Sanders Lancaster the right to preach. On July 25, 1915, it was moved and seconded to have Bro. Needom Sanders Lancaster ordained as a minister to take place the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in August 1915. He chose Bros. N. B. Wall, L. T. Phillips and Tyler Johnson to ordain him.
2. In April 1938 it was moved and agreed that we give Bro. Archie P. Lee a letter of recommendation to the Ordaining Council of the Western Association of the Original Free Will Baptist. In January 1939 a letter of recommendation was given to Bro. Archie P. Lee for membership to Pleasant Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, where he was later ordained as an Original Free Will Baptist minister.

3. On April 18, 1964, Bro. DeWayne Eakes expressed the call of God to the work of the Gospel Ministry. The church voted to recommend Bro. Eakes to the Western Conference Ordination Board as a candidate for license. On July 17, 1965, the church voted to reinstate Bro. DeWayne Eakes' license to preach for one year. He was ordained by the Western Conference.
4. On February 6, 1966, at a called business meeting the church recommended Bro. William L. Dale to the Ordination Board of the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptist for license to preach the Gospel. He was ordained by the Western Conference. On October 12, 1966, Bro. William Dale asked to be relieved of the duties of clerk of our church due to having accepted Pastorate of Spring Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church.
5. On January 6, 1968, Pastor Raymond Jones reported that Bro. Foy Futrell had passed his ordination test and was recommended to become a licensed minister. Motion was made and seconded that Bro. Foy Futrell be licensed. On January 13, 1969, Bro. Foy Futrell was ordained an Original Free Will Baptist minister.
6. On March 14, 1971, after the Sunday morning worship service, there was a called meeting of the church. We voted on the recommendation that Bro. Frank Flowers be recommended to the Western Conference Board of Ordination for license to preach the Gospel. On April 5, 1972, a motion was made that the church recommend to the Ordination Council that Bro. Frank Flowers be examined for ordination into the ministry.
7. On July 3, 1974, Jeff Scarborough asked the church to recommend him to the Ordination Council for license to preach. On April 1, 1975, Jeff Scarborough asked for recommendation from the church to the Western Conference Ordination Council that he be examined on or before July 3, 1975, for ordination into the ministry.
8. On October 4, 1989, the church recommended Richard Holmes to the Board of Ordination of the Western Conference for examination for license to preach. On July 17, 1991, it was recommended that the license of Richard Holmes be renewed for one year as he further prepares himself for ordination into the Gospel Ministry. On October 16, 1991, it was voted by the deacons that the church recommend that Richard Holmes be examined for ordination by the Western Conference Ordination Council.
9. On July 26, 1995, Richard Glosson was recommended to the Western Conference for licensing to the Gospel Ministry. On October 11, 1995, since the Western Conference Board of Ordination has approved Richard Glosson for license of the Gospel of Ministry, he will be presented certification of license in the 11 o'clock service on Homecoming Day, October 11, 1995.
10. In October 1995, after approval by the Western Conference, Odell Morris was recommended for licensing. He was presented a certificate of licensing on Sunday, October 11, 1995, by the church on Homecoming Day in the 11 AM Service.

It is very difficult to write about the Free will Baptists because the records have not been kept accurately. In England the Baptists went through great persecution especially during their earlier days. As professed followers of Jesus Christ they would say, "Though they slay me, yet I will trust Him," and "If God be for us, who can be against us?" and "Who can separate us from the love of Christ." It is found that the principles of the Christianity promulgates through the Free Will Baptists from the days of the Apostles until the present time. We have not changed in the least, from the first principles of the baptism ordained by Christ, that no one can be a member of the Commission of saints, but by his own solemn vow made in the presence of the church, with the understanding that the candidate would be baptized by being immersed in water. At this time he is admitted to the church, by the brethren upon his confession of faith in the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. He is to understand the baptism therefore

was not for the cleansing of the body, but a vow made to God with a good conscience through faith in Jesus Christ.

It is believed that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was introduced in Britain about the year A.D. 63 by Claudia, a Welch princess, who was converted in the ministry of the Apostle Paul in Rome. Her exertions to extend the reigns of Christ were very successful. It is said the early British Church bore a striking resemblance to the model institution of Jerusalem.

Around 440 A.D. the immorality in Britain caused the Baptist worshipers to retire to the woods to enjoy in peace the worship of God and communion with other worshipers.

Their churches were burned and destroyed to their foundations. The people were killed and buried under the ruins of their own houses. The altars were daily covered with the blood of those who were slain.

Records show there were General Baptists families living in North Carolina as early as 1690. Also, there were General Baptist ministers from London, England, who were organizing bodies of Christians that were meeting for worship services. These dedicated clergy and their followers were fighting the powers of evil here on earth by spreading the General Baptist faith in this newly discovered land even though the population, mostly English settlers, was very small. A note of interest-- in 1682 pamphlets were sent out in England advertising the attractiveness of the Carolinas as a land rich in natural resources and a healthy climate, as well as a place honoring religious freedom.

Remember the early settlers had the Indians that were living here to contend with. Some were friendly and welcomed the white man, but others were blood thirsty warriors, who thought these people were taking over their land, even though these Englishmen had received a land grant before settling here, North Carolina being a royal colony.

It is said these Baptists had organized as many as eighteen Churches or Societies that would come together in an annual interview or yearly meeting as early as 1699. At these meetings they would discuss the general concerns of the churches and major problems arising in a local church, which could not be resolved within themselves.

The Rev. Paul Palmer, a traveling Free will Baptist preacher, was one that helped keep these conferences alive. He was known for his success in organizing new groups into Societies that met regularly one Sunday each month, if the weather permitted. You are aware they had to walk for miles or travel by horses, buggies and wagons on paths or trails through the woods and fields to reach their destinations, so the weather had to be agreeable. One minister was known to pastor more than one Church or Society.

*Harrison and Barfield History of the Free Will Baptist of North Carolina.*  
*Book II Page 328*

(Records of the Western Conference, which Stoney Hill was a member of and still is today.) At an annual conference of the Free Will Baptist of Eastern North Carolina held with the Church at Black Jack, Pitt County in the year 1886, it was seen important that a new conference should be formed for the general convenience of the denomination. An order passed said conference granting the Western portion of the body permission to organize themselves into a separate conference. A committee of six brethren was appointed to deliberate concerning the boundary line between the two conferences; also as to privileges granted the new body.

They were to submit their report to the conference then in session. The committee appointed was Elders R. K. Hearn, Daniel Davis, Malachi Linton, John Harrison, P. T. Lucas and R. H. Holland. The committee made the following report, which was adopted by the Conference.

First, that the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad be the dividing line between the two Conferences provided that any church on either side of said road may represent in either Conference at its own option, eastern or western.

Second, no changes shall be made in our book of discipline without the concurrence of three fourths of both conferences.

According to previous appointment, the Ministers and delegates assigned to the New Conference met with the church at St. Mary, Wilson County, October 20, 1887.

Officers of the Conference were J. H. Worley, Moderator and T. J. D. Pate, clerk.

It was agreed that the body should be known as the "Western Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist of North Carolina."

Number of ministers 19. Number of churches 26. Number of members 1,403.

Yearly Conferences were held on Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in October, with different churches in the Conference being host on voluntary basis. Each church would send delegates and a contribution to help cover the expenses of the Conference. It was in these Conferences where contribution to Home Missions, orphans and disabled ministers were first sponsored. These donations were very small, as little as fifty cents going to each enterprise.

During the year of 1908 Stoney Hill Church, as it was known at that time, had a membership of 131 and was still blessed with a rapid growth in number. Additional room was needed, so a strip of land was bought so they could expand the building. A wing was added across the back of the church giving it the shape of a T in appearance. The cost of the building was estimated around \$360.00.

Our first recorded records read, "Stoney Hill October 24, 1908, Conference opened with Prayer and Praise by Elder Charlie E. Orton, our Pastor. It was moved and agreed that we Represent at the next union meeting and send Bro. Floyd Jones and Bro. Grover Faucett as delegates and send 50 cents contribution.

On motion that Bro. John Bryant Howell furnish the Clerk, A. J. Pate, an eligible (sic) statement of the new church building."

The next few pages Bro. Howell, who owned a saw mill, gives an itemized statement of the lumber he had furnished for the building, down to each square foot. Then the money received from the Church and each individual by name and the amount. A listing of the nails, bricks, lime, doors and windows, and those hauling bricks and materials. No other labor was put in the report. On motion Conference closed.

Union meetings met on Saturday before fifth Sunday with delegates from each church in the district. Dr. Michael Pelt says as early as 1783, Benjamin Randall and his co-workers discussed the possibility of an organization that would meet regularly to deal with common problems and receive reports from the churches and ordained ministers. Since it was agreed that meetings of this type should be held once each quarter it became known as the Quarterly meeting and later called Union Meeting that met on Saturday before fifth Sunday.

In 1909, a Holiness Minister held a revival here at Stony Hill embracing the holiness version of the doctrine of sanctification causing a division between the members and a large group pulled out and built their own Church, our neighbor, Free Chapel Pentecostal Free Will Baptist. Some other members moved their membership to Woods Grove Church that had made a complete change and others to the newly organized churches at Belfast and Pikeville.

Due to the division in the denomination the membership dropped drastically, but Stoney Hill stood the test and rallied back with a greater faith and love for each other.



If there were any records kept before the division during the Holiness movement, they were either destroyed or taken by some of those that moved their membership. Our first records are those that were kept of the business meetings that were called Quarterly Conference since they met every three months--January, April, July and October on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in each of these months.

The morning session opened with Praise and Prayer by the Pastor followed by congregational singing and a sermon. After a picnic lunch on the ground, the afternoon session began with Holy Communion and Washing of the Saints' Feet which was followed by a business meeting. At this time they heard reports from the previous Union Meeting that met on Saturday before each fifth Sunday. New delegates were chosen to represent the church at the next Union Meeting that was to meet with a volunteering church in the Western District. A contribution of \$1.50 was sent to help with the expenses of the meeting, the Missions and disabled ministers--50 cents to each enterprise. Other reports were heard including the Christian Character Committee. Old and new business was called for and discussed. Afterwards, by motion the Conference closed.

By giving an account of some of the things that were recorded in some Quarterly Meetings, I hope to give you some idea of what went on during the earlier meetings for which we have records. It might be interesting to take note of the small amount of money that it took to keep the Church going. It seems that the church members had a knack for ignoring little petty happenings and continued to grow in their faith and determination to see souls saved through the guidance and leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In our first records of Stoney Hill Free Will Baptist Church, in the early 1900's, we find they were very strict in their discipline. They had a Christian Character Committee, known as the C. C. C. The use of this committee was to visit and talk with members who were walking disorderly and not complying with the Church ordinances. After a visit of the Committee, most of those walking ungodly would repent and come back into the fellowship of the church, but those who would not apply to the rules were excommunicated.

In January 1925, after the excommunication of some members for walking disorderly, Bro. Richard Anderson made this statement, "Although we hate this loss of such members, we as a church want to be pure, white and spotless when Jesus comes. May Heaven's richest blessing rest on these brothers and sisters and may they return unto the Lord." The Christian Character Committee added that "Mr. Anderson's talk was appreciated for we feel like we need more people to clean up, and if we had more brothers like Bro. Anderson our church would be better."

This Godly old saint, as Mr. Richard Anderson was thought to be, was just a poor uneducated tenant farmer who couldn't read and write. But in his older years in a testimony of love and praise he left an impression on the heart of an eleven or twelve year old child when he said, "The Lord had blessed him with the ability to read the Holy Scriptures." This testimony has stayed with me almost seventy years. As we say at times his cup was full and running over with joy and the Holy Spirit that filled his heart.

The church members were required to attend quarterly meeting at least once a year or send a written letter to show cause of absence. Those that were slack in attendance were dealt with by the C. C. C. They had to straighten up or be excommunicated.

### Christian Character Committee

April 22, 1911 - Committee consists of Bros. I. L. Tilton, James Forehand, and Charlie Tilton.

January 28, 1912 - Bros. C. R. Strickland and R. A. Anderson

April 25, 1912 - Bros. C. R. Strickland and L. R. B. Combs

October 25, 1913 - Bros. Daniel Lancaster and C. R. Strickland

October 24, 1914 - to talk to non-attending members - Bros. J. B. Howell, R. A. Anderson and W. A. Horn.

January 27, 1917 - Sisters Glennie Howell and Claudie Pate

October 27, 1917 - Sisters Nancy Pate, Dora Combs and Lela Jones, Bros. R. Anderson, N. E. Sullivan and W. B. Forehand

February 23, 1918 - Bros. W. A. Horn and J. B. Hughes

February 23, 1918 - Bros. Eddie Jones, R. A. Anderson and Lester Howell

January 25, 1919 - Bros. W. A. Horn, G. W. Sasser and James Williams

April 25, 1919 - Sisters Lela Jones, May Lancaster and Eva Chase, Bros. William Jones, J. E. Jones and Daniel Lancaster

October 25, 1919 - Bros. J. B. Howell, J. J. Williams and R. A. Anderson

October 25, 1919 - Bros. J. E. Jones, W. A. Horn and L. R. B. Combs

October 23, 1920 - Sisters Glennie Howell and Leona Jones

January 22, 1921 - Sisters Sarah Strickland and Nettie World

October 25, 1921 - Bros. M. A. Sullivan and W. A. Horn

January 1923 - Sisters Sadie Gardner, Nannie Summerlin and Anna Sasser

January 26, 1924 - Bros. W. H. Jones, R. A. Anderson and M. A. Sullivan

April 26, 1924 - Bros. W. H. Jones and M. A. Sullivan

July 27, 1924 - Bros. George Sasser and Bill Pate

October 1927 - Bros. W. T. Forehand was elected

July 26, 1930 - discontinued the investigation of the Christian Character Committee.

It has been said that our Preachers didn't receive a set salary for their services before 1908. The Pastor was slipped a few dollars with a hand shake from some of the members. It was during their building program that 17 members pledged to pay Elder George Davis \$19.50 for his care of the church as assistant Pastor. In January 1909, there were only 28 names on the membership roll. April 25, 1909, it was moved and agreed that the secretary keep an account of the money on hand. July 24, 1909, on motion Bro. Charlie E. Orton was chosen as Pastor for the coming year and he was to be paid for his services. At that time Pastors were elected each year in July.

October 23, 1909, it was moved and agreed that Bro. Leonard R. Bryant Combs be elected as Church Treasurer. I am proud that he was my grandfather, as well as the grandfather of three other members of our church today, along with many great grands, great great grands and great great great grandchildren. On October 22, 1910, after Bro. A. J. Pate resigned his position as Church Clerk, Bro. L. R. B. Combs was elected to fill his unexpired term. Grandpa was well educated for that day so he served in both capacities with dedication out of love for the church. In July 1919 he gave up the position of Church Clerk, but he kept the treasury until his death on January 20, 1929, it being almost a twenty year term. Bro. Combs was replaced by his daughter, Sister Mary C. Sullivan and her husband Bro. Charlie E. Sullivan.

On July 23, 1910, by motion we chose Bro. George W. Davis as our Pastor for the next ensuing year.

Money was scarce and there was not much carried over from one meeting until the next. Since they were in the middle of a building program and a drop in membership, many sacrifices had to be made to keep the church out of debt.

November 27, 1910, a collection was taken for Union Meeting amounting to \$1.10. Also, another collection was taken to help pay off church debt amounting to \$2.75.

On Sunday following the Quarterly Conference on January 21, 1911, a collection was taken to get money to pay on the church debt. The amount raised was \$4.17. Then on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in February, another collection was taken amounting to \$1.85. This must have gotten them out of debt because April 22, 1911 reported \$10.25 on hand.

On July 23, 1911, it was moved and carried to pay Elder George W. Davis \$50.00 for his services as our Pastor and to make A. T. Griffin a note payable some time in the future for lumber and other materials that were used in our church building program. It was moved and carried that we pay Bro. J. C. Singleton \$12.00 on the account that he holds for church seats, leaving a balance due him of \$6.50. Bro. C. E. Orton was elected Pastor for the ensuing year.

On October 20, 1911, a collection was taken for reducing the church debt to Bro. Singleton proceeds amounting to \$5.50 leaving a balance due of \$1.00. It being paid by the treasurer December 19, 1911. It was moved and agreed that we appoint Bros. Charley Strickland, J. B. Elmore, and L. R. B. Combs as trustees of the church and the said trustees to make Sister Angeline Howell a note amounting to \$28.50, the same to be paid to A. T. Griffen for building supplies.

The January 28, 1912, report of treasury showed church funds of \$1.75 on hand. Paint fund \$23.50.

On April 25, 1912, Bros. J. B. Elmore and L. R. B. Combs were appointed to attend Union Meeting at Black Jack Grove and carry \$1.50. Contribution not being sufficient, it was moved to draw on the treasury for 15 cents leaving a balance of \$1.60 on hand.

On July 1912, it was moved and agreed to represent in the next Union to be held with the church at Pine Level on fifth Sunday in September 1912. Bros. N. S. Lancaster and J. B. Howell were the delegates, and we sent \$1.50 as contribution. It was moved and carried that we represent in the next General Conference to be held at Kenly 1912 and send \$2.00 contribution and Bros. J. B. Elmore and G. C. Lancaster as delegates. It was moved and agreed to draw on the treasury for \$1.05. It was moved and agreed that all male members pay into the church treasury 50 cents a year and all female members 25 cents for church expenses. It was moved and agreed to pay Bro. C. E. Orton \$25.00 for his year's service as Pastor. It was moved and agreed that we elect Bro. C. E. Orton as our Pastor for the ensuing year and Bro. "Loid"(Lloyd) Overman his assistant.

At our next meeting it was agreed to represent with the Minister's Union to be held at Micro, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Bros. L. R. B. Combs and Fred Lancaster were delegates with a \$1.00 contribution. Money in hands of treasury \$2.05.

On October 27, 1912, it was moved and carried that we represent in the next union and send \$1.50 and draw on the treasury for the amount. It was moved and agreed to send Bros. R. A. Anderson and J. A. Smith. It was moved and agreed to pay Bro. C. E. Orton some on what we agreed to pay him. Collection was taken up and \$7.75 was raised, having been paid \$8.00 before amounting to \$15.75. It was agreed to pay Sister Angeline Howell the interest on the church note for one year.

The next minutes give the names of members as they paid their dues. Reported disbursements \$62.00 leaving a balance on hand of \$5.24. Angeline Howell gave interest \$.71. Paid Tobe (Toby) Deans for painting roof \$5.00. Paid to Union at Raines Crossroads \$1.50. Paid to Union at Union Grove \$1.50. Conference at Spring Hill \$2.00. Painting House \$3.00.

On August 1912, the amount of money paid into the Painting Fund is as follows: \$42.00; J. E. Elmore \$5.00. The amount of money paid to the roofing fund is as follows - On Hand- \$11.50. \$.50 \$4.50

The first shipment of paint for the church will be due and payable October 29, 1912. The amount is \$22.25.

August 29 - Devoe's Paint	30.00
5 gallons of gasoline	1.00
Freight on paint	.92
3 Paint Brushes	1.80
September 3rd	
Freight on paint	.68
Aug. 31st 4 gallons of oil	3.40
Due on Paint Sept. 26th	18.00
Sep. 6 Gasoline	1.00
Total	\$79.05

Comparing these prices with prices today, it's unbelievable how things have changed.

It was at the conference of Stony Hill July 26, 1913, that Bro. Needom Sanders Lancaster was granted the right to preach. Bro. C. E. Orton was elected Pastor of the church for the ensuing year and Bro. C. D. Howell his assistant.

On December 28, 1913, during the revising of the church membership rolls, it was reported that the Pastor Elder C. E. Orton disappeared. The stress of a building program and the sudden loss of his Christian brethren that he had brought to Christ through his ministry due to the split in the church caused by a disagreement in the doctrine, must have caused him to be very discouraged and broken hearted. There could have been other problems, but whatever, he left the church and his family for unknown parts and unknown reasons for around twenty years.

Membership had been on the increase and Bro. N. S. Lancaster was in the process of being ordained, so the church was not left without leadership. Bro. Tyler Johnson filled in as assistant Pastor until July 22, 1914, when Bro. N. B. Wall was elected Pastor for the next year.

On July 25, 1915, it was moved and seconded to have Bro. Needom Sanders Lancaster ordained on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in August 1915, by three ministers of his choice which were Bro. N. B. Wall, L. T. Phillips and Tyler Johnson. Bro. N. B. Wall was elected to serve as Pastor for the ensuing year. At this time, they were apparently free of debt because Bro. John Bryant Howell was asked to put in new lamps for lighting the church.

On April 22, 1916, it was agreed to take as much money out of the treasury as possible to pay on the church lamps and the remainder to be gathered by a canvassing committee composed of Bros. J. J. Bivens and Daniel Lancaster and Sister Angeline Howell. Bro. N. B. Wall was elected Pastor for the ensuing year.

On January 22, 1917, they drew on the treasury for a balance due \$1.55 on church lamps.

As recently as 1940, 90% of the nation's farm families and many living in smaller towns had no commercial electricity. Kerosene lamps and what they called gas jets provided lights in the homes after sunset. Some families had only one lamp that was taken from room to room to give light where it was needed. Light from the open fireplace was a blessing but bedtime came early on those long winter nights. A real chore was cleaning the lamp shade that had been smoked when the wick was turned up too high to get more light. To give the shade a quick clean, one would blow their breath into the smoked shade and wipe it out with crumpled newspaper making your hand black with soot and the smell of kerosene. These lamps were lit at sundown with a long stemmed wooden match. The shades or

chimneys as they were often called were usually washed with warm soapy water and rinsed clean when the bowl of the lamp was refilled with oil. The wicks that went down into the bowl of the lamps would soak up the oil when burning. They were kept trimmed in the shape of a fan.

In 1916 the Temperance Committee in its report to the North Carolina State Convention of the Original Free Will Baptist took a strong stand against the use of alcohol in any form, including a recommendation that grape juice be used instead of wine for communion services.

July 21, 1917, was the first time a contribution to the Orphan fund was mentioned in the contribution that was sent to the Union Meeting which was 50 cents.

Since most of our younger members have taken so much interest in our Children's Home, I would like to give them information taken from Dr. Floyd Cherry's History of the Original Free Will Baptist. Somewhere around 1910, interest concerning an orphanage for the North Carolina Free Will Baptist manifested itself. However, nothing definite was done until the formation of the State Convention in 1913. At the second session of the State Convention in 1914, a resolution was passed pledging the Convention to build an orphanage.

The next year 1915 when the State Convention met, they appointed an Orphanage Committee of five to handle all money raised for said work and to locate a site for same. Also to report what was being done through the paper. A man from each conference was appointed to visit the church for the purpose of raising funds for building of said Orphanage. These men were paid for the time they were actively engaged in this work. A motion was passed to allow these workers 10% of what they actually collected.

First, they had to find a site for the home. Several were offered, but the present site in Southern Nash County was finally selected when the Rev. B. B. Deans offered the committee a gift of fifty acres of land about two miles North of the town of Middlesex. This gift was accepted by the Orphanage Committee on January 1, 1916. There was only one framed dwelling and several small farm buildings on the property. By 1917, enough money had been raised to erect a suitable building for an orphanage, and a three story building containing 31 rooms with a full basement was started and a utility was built nearby.

This building program moved slowly and it was not until 1920 that the home was ready to admit children. The first applications were approved on February 11, 1920, and on May 23, 1920, the following children were admitted to the home: Nellie, Helen, Dorothy and Carl Whitley.

Through the years the home has experienced steady growth. Of course, the Depression years of the 1930's slowed the growth, but since then the growth has been constant.

Due to the fact that many of the children had one or both parents living, the Duke Foundation that was contributing annually, insisted that it ought to be a home for homeless children. A motion was passed at the 1955 session of the State Convention that the Orphanage be called The Free Will Baptist Children's Home. During the years that the Home has existed, hundreds of children have found a home there. Many of these have grown up to take a place of leadership in the churches and denomination of the Original Free Will Baptist.

Back in the early 1930's during the summer one of the matrons of the Children's Home would take a group of the children on a tour of some of the churches in the denomination and put on a concert as a fund raising project. The children would spend the night in the homes of some of the church families and go on to another church the next day. Mrs. Lillie Mae Sasser, the former Lillie Mae Hare, served as a matron for several years before her marriage.



My first memories of Dr. Burkette Raper was during his youth when he was a member of this concert group. He and his siblings were given a home at the Children's Home after the death of their father. Today he still gives much praise, thanks and appreciation for the opportunity of being reared in this home.

Due to severely cold weather in 1917, the mid-winter Union meeting was postponed and our Quarterly meeting was postponed until February 23, 1918.

On July 27, 1918, it was moved and agreed to have water on the church grounds. Before this time water had been brought from neighboring families as needed. Bro. J. E. Jones was appointed as foreman in getting the water. Bros. J. B. Howell and L. R. B. Combs were to assist. A Committee, Sisters Dora Combs and Fannie Howell along with Bro. R. A. Anderson were chosen to canvas and raise money to pay for a hand pump and fixtures.

A motion was made to buy 50 song books which was voted down and then agreed to buy three dozen song books and \$12 was taken from the treasury to pay for them.

On November 23, 1918, it was agreed that the Church needed to buy a new stove or heater. A collection of \$7.27 was taken. Bro. J. E. Jones gave \$5 and they drew on the treasury for the balance of \$3.30 leaving \$1.20 on hand. Bro. J. E. Jones bought the large pot-belly heater and Bros. Daniel Lancaster and J. B. Howell help put it up. Part of the wood that was burned in the heater was donated and some was paid for out of the church treasury. They had a sexton that was paid a small salary to build fires before each service.

On January 25, 1919, a Committee composed of Bro. J. E. Jones, Sisters May Lancaster and Alma Stricklen was appointed to draw up a draft resolution in regard to the deceased members.

"Whereas through death our church has sustained a great loss, therefore be it resolved:

1<sup>st</sup> that the members of Stony Hill Church do sincerely mourn over the loss.

2<sup>nd</sup> that however sad the occasion is we realize that our heavenly Father is rich in wisdom and that his mercy endureth for ever.

3<sup>rd</sup> that we extend to the family our heartfelt sympathy in their hour of sadness and commit them to the one that has promised to never leave us alone and who has decreed that all things worketh together for good to those who love the Lord.

4<sup>th</sup> that a copy of this resolution be spread upon our church record. A copy be sent to the bereaved family and a copy sent to the Free Will Baptist for publication."

In our records we have two recorded deaths, Sister Martha S. Futrell, November 6, 1918, and Sister Caladona Pate, November 25, 1918.

On July 1919, Bro. James Williams was hired as sexton and was paid \$2.00. J. E. Jones was elected Clerk retiring Bro. L. R. B. Combs. It was agreed to appoint a Building Committee--Chairman Bro. L. R. B. Combs, Bros. Daniel Lancaster and W. A. Horn to serve with him. Elder N. S. Lancaster is to be our Pastor for the ensuing year.

On February 25, 1920, one of our members was charged with disloyalty to the church by being drunk. He was excommunicated from the church. In a quote from the minutes he stated, "That he that is clear let him cast the first stone is all the satisfaction he can know." Notice how his sentence was worded. Meaning he that is without sin, let him cast the first stone. If we love the soul of our brother we shall say, "He has fallen today and I will reprove him for his own good. I may fall tomorrow, and then let him deal with me." "Love" is the great secret of church discipline and will do more than all other things put together toward ensuring success. A watchful eye upon the church and members may do more toward good order. Discourage whispering, backbiting and jealousies. Frown on tale bearers and give no ear to their tales. Nip contentions in the bud.

On July 24, 1920, it was agreed to draw on the treasury for \$2.15 making \$3.00 to be sent to the

next conference to be held at Marsh Swamp. It was moved to pay Bro. J. B. Howell 25 cents for oil, \$7 for lamps and 30 cents for sweeping the floor. It was agreed that Bro. J. B. Howell be our next sexton for 12 months and receive \$1 per month. Bro. G. C. Joyner was elected Pastor for the next year and the following year of 1921, also.

On October 22, 1921, the building committee that was elected in 1919 gave their report. \$130.47 had been received and \$107.70 had been paid out for repairs, leaving \$22.77 after paying expenses. This building committee was discharged. Then it was agreed to appoint a painting committee of Bros. T. B. Sasser, Daniel Lancaster and W. A. Anderson to paint the tin roof.

It was moved and agreed that this church have Ruling Elders: Bros. J. B. Howell, C. R. Strickland, George Sasser, Lester Howell and M. B. Pate.

Deacons: Bros. J. B. Howell, M. A. Sullivan, W. A. Horn and George Sasser.

Finance Committee: Sisters Dora Combs, Nettie Worrell and Obelia Futrell.

Christian Character Committee: Bros. M. A. Sullivan and W. A. Horn.

Deaconesses: Sisters Glennie Howell, Glennie Sasser and Sadie Horn.

On April 22, 1922, the Paint Committee gave its report. It was agreed to pay Bro. Tom Sasser his expenses. It was agreed to make the Painting Committee a standing Building Committee.

On October 22, 1911, sound arrangements were made to paint the church inside and out with the Building Committee to be in charge of the work. After the painting was mentioned the women agreed to paint the inside and the men the outside. The committee being Bros. T. B. Sasser, Dan Lancaster, M. A. Anderson and J. E. Jones. Sister Glennie Howell was added, she being President of the Ladies' Aid Society known later as the Ladies' Auxiliary. After a long scuffle of taking collections, the \$8.09 that was owed Bro. Tom Sasser on painting the roof was raised.

January 1923. It was agreed to elect more Deacons and Ruling Elders. Bros. W. H. Jones, M. A. Sullivan and A. H. Gardner as Deacons and Bros. Lester Howell and W. B. Pate as Ruling Elders.

April 24, 1923. Sisters Nettie Worrell and Dora Combs were elected Deaconesses. It was also agreed to build an outside toilet for the ladies. This was turned over to the Building Committee and it was built at a cost of \$14.95 as reported in October. Also, a report of a Stand and Chairs to use in the pulpit with a cost of \$21.70 all paid. It was agreed to raise money to finish paying for doors and windows.

On April 26, 1924, the Church agreed to take out insurance on the property. A Committee of Bros. L. R. B. Combs, T. B. Sasser and J. B. Forehand to take care of it.

On July 27, 1924, there was a unanimous vote for Elder A. A. Wells as Pastor for ensuing year.

On April 1925, the Union meeting of the Denomination asked that each Church take a part in the building program of the orphanage. Bro. M. A. Sullivan suggested that we do as the Union asked, that each member pay 10 cents per month to the orphanage realizing they were in the process of erecting a building at the home.

During the pastorate of Rev. A. A. Wells around 1925, a Delco light plant was installed which was a great improvement over the old kerosene reflector lamps that had been used since the building program in 1880. This system was housed in a small wooden plank building about six feet by eight feet and ten feet high with a door and a couple of windows. The electricity was generated by a large battery that was kept charged by an engine. The Church was wired overhead on the ceiling, giving a good place for wasps and dirt dobbies to build. The light bulbs hung down from the ceiling on a long cord without a globe or shade.

In October 1925 in the business meeting they voted to pay to wire the area out to the water pump to provide light for the drive way.

My first memory of the Stoney Creek Church was in 1930 when my family moved to this

community. Roads at this time were very narrow, just wide enough for two cars to pass each other. Large road machines owned by the state kept the roads scraped smooth for more comfortable traveling. This was before the hills were graded down, so it was up the hill and down in the valley just as mother nature had left it. In wet weather those clay hills were hard to climb without getting stuck in the deep muddy ruts.

It was a cross roads the same as it is today, except being on a hill, Highway 111 North was known as the Patetown Road. Stoney Creek Church Road was called Belfast Road to the west and Howell Road to the east. The church was on the southeast corner on a hill with a rise of about six feet. The drive way was slightly off the corner on the Howell Road which was almost level with the yard of the home on the northeast corner. There was a high bank between the drive way and the Patetown Road. About where the road signs are today, was three or four large pine trees. Between these pines the water pump was located. This was a driven pump using an inch and a half pipe with a point and strainer that was driven in the ground until a flow of water was found. A cast iron pitcher pump was screwed on the top end of the pipe about thirty inches off the ground. This hand pump had a long handle that was carried up and down by hand bringing a flow of water. There was a clay tile about twelve inches in diameter around the pipe above the ground that helped support a wooden shelf, built to sit a container on to catch the water. Bobby and Ashley Kennedy told me that when they were small boys, they would stand on the pump shelf and could see the smoke from the train at Belfast. This was a very high hill.

On the vacant lot that is on the southwest corner was a cotton gin and a corn mill owned by Mr. Richard Hare. On the northwest corner across from the church was a country store owned by Mr. John Bryant Howell and was run by many other people after his death. This old store was said to be a part of the first church and school combination that was moved across the road around 1880 when the first church sanctuary was enlarged by adding a part of the old ironside church building to it. The floor in the back room of this old store was elevated above the main part and it is thought that this part was the altar or pulpit of the first church. This old country store was torn down in 1962 and replaced with a modern grocery store. On the northeast corner was a family dwelling, same as it is today.

A large oak tree that was known as a land mark was growing in front of the church about where the church sign and flag pole are today. This tree gave a good shade for the congregation to gather and visit after church services. It was taken down after it was struck by lightning and burned on one side by flames from an oil tanker that burned on the edge of the Patetown Road down below.

Beyond the oak tree on the bank between the Patetown Road and the southern drive way that went out to the main road down toward the creek, was a cluster of medium size pines. A piece of hog wire was stretched between the pines and was used for a picnic table. Many of our older members fondly remember those dinners on the ground during their all day meetings.

The area on the eastside of the driveway was used for parking as well as under the trees on the high bank in front of the church.

I am too young to remember the church that is a part of the old sanctuary facing the west. But from what I have gathered it was a small wooden framed building painted white, that measured 36 ft. long and 27 ft. wide, with three large windows on each side that had eighteen regular size 8 x 10 in. window panes. This was before the building programs in 1908 when a wing approximately 16 ft. by 40 ft. was added to the back making the building 52 ft. long and the shape of a T in appearance.

My first memory in 1930 was the entrance to the sanctuary at the front was through double doors from wooden fan shaped steps. I would say these steps were more of an angle as in a hip roof. The T part had a door to enter on each side where this part extended out from the old part of the building.

The pulpit was an elevated section from which the sermon was delivered in the middle of the T part. The south right hand side with the pews facing the pulpit was known as the a-men corner and the

elders, deacons, and some of the older men occupied this space. "Amen's" were heard more back then. They felt it was necessary to let the minister know they agreed with the Holy Truths he was preaching and to encourage him in his ministry.

Some of the older women along with the Deacons' and Elders' wives would sit on the north side and would give a nod of their head when they agreed. Women did not speak out in church in those days. One of our older members said this was called the "women's corner." The pews were facing the pulpit also.

A large pot-belly wood burning heater was located in front of the pulpit as near the middle of the church as possible. The pews around the heater were shorter but were always filled, it being the warmest place in the house. The front pews on the East side were reserved for the choir, and the piano was between the window and the door that opened into the T part. For years most people used that side door because it was convenient. One lady made the statement that the first time she came to worship service at Stoney Creek that she and her daughter were the only ones that used the front door.

It is natural for people to sit where they are comfortable, and in summer those large windows were the attraction. That cool breeze was the only air conditioning we had. There were four large windows in the T part, one at each end north and south, with two on the east wall, one on each side the pulpit.

At the back of the north side of the church yard near the T part was a small white building about 6 x 8 ft and 10 ft high, and it was used to house the Delco plant that was the lighting system that was installed about 1925.

A small grave yard was located on the south side of the church and an outside toilet off from the southeast corner, with the usual Sears and Roebuck catalog that was prevalent in those days. Toilet tissues were a luxury and were not properly replaced. The area that was beyond that was a wooded lot and a sand pit where our picnic shelter is today. The church did not own the land between the grave yard and the creek.

In early spring Lillie Mae Hare Sasser and some of the other young women that were leaders in the church would put together a program of songs, recitations, and skits of short plays for the younger people to present in an all day service called Children's Day, which was enjoyed by all and made the younger people feel they were an important part of the church.

Within the next few weeks the Stoney Creek Township Sunday School convention would meet in an all day service with different churches in the township. With most of the local churches representing and having a part on the program, sometimes we would use the recitations or plays from our Children's Day program. These services helped to unite the churches of all denominations in a worship service of togetherness.

Later most all the Sunday Schools in Wayne County would come together for a county Sunday School Convention. The purpose was to encourage the younger people of all denominations to attend Sunday School to learn God's Word. The first Sunday School in Wayne County was started in 1841 by Co. C.J. Nelson in Old Waynesboro Baptist Church. He was a native of New Bern and was called the Father of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro, NC, a Southern Baptist Church.

Elder A. A. Wells continued as our Pastor until July 1926 when Rev. W. H. Lancaster was elected. It was at this meeting they agreed to send \$10.00 as our part to help complete the college (Eureka College) at Ayden, North Carolina.

In the nineteenth century, the Free Will Baptist denomination showed little interest in providing educational opportunities for its ministers. Even though the churches had a significant gain in their memberships between 1853 and 1900, their failure to provide a school to educate their young people may have been one of the greatest errors in judgement of their entire history. Although in the last decade



of the nineteenth century a few forward-looking men in the Pitt County area began to see that definite steps should be taken to remedy this lack of any educational program. In March 1898, at a Union meeting held at the Spring Branch Church, Pitt County, the subject of establishing a school was discussed with much enthusiasm. After much discussion a resolution was passed to form a stock company to build a seminary in the town of Ayden, NC. Stock was sold and a stockholder's meeting was called. The following directors of the company were elected: J. M. Barfield, President; E. F. Harrison, Secretary; W. F. Hart, Treasurer; E. H. Craft, E. E. Dail, A. L. Harrington and W. H. Harris, Members.

A Building Committee was soon appointed composed of W. F. Hart as foreman; A. L. Harrington and J. M. Barfield to assist. Under the direction of this Committee, a building was erected large enough to accommodate 290 pupils and the seminary opened in 1898 with T. E. Peaden as president. Their thoughts were this school would benefit our young people and especially the preachers, who had so often struggled with the disadvantage of having very little education. Most rural Southerners were struggling with the problem of poverty, ignorance and isolation. Free Will Baptists were no exception, they enjoyed very limited cultural advantages. The Board of Directors decided the school should be named "The Free Will Baptist Seminary" and that it should have a theological department for training ministers.

The first pupils were enrolled under the principalship of Professor J. E. B. Davis, son of the late Elder Daniel Davis, who was one of our own as he was reared in this community. His family attended this church where he was ordained into the ministry. He was known for his leadership in the Western Conference in organizing other churches in this area.

Elder Daniel Davis was born August 4, 1826, and died August 23, 1900. Early in life he was converted and joined the Methodist church, but in 1854 he united with the Free Will Baptist and was licensed to preach the Gospel in October 1867 and was ordained with full authority in November of that same year. It was said a more faithful earnest servant of God had never been called. He was in the ministry the same number of years that Christ lived on this earth—33 years. He preached over 4000 sermons and traveled many thousands of miles through rain, heat and cold by horse back to keep his appointments. There were thousands that took Christ as their Savior from hearing the messages of God's saving power in his sermons. Many churches were organized by Davis in Wayne, Wake, Wilson, Johnston, Nash and Franklin Counties.

He organized Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Johnston County in 1868 and served as pastor from 1868-1893. May 15, 1871, he helped organize Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church in Lucama, NC, in Wilson County and pastored there for 22 years. He was called back to the church in 1897. Daniel Davis had only eleven days of schooling but the New Testament was his constant companion. Many of our Free Will Baptist ministers in our state were influenced after hearing the word of God preached with his great faith in God. While Elder Davis was doing this great work for his Master, he supported a wife and ten children on his 700 acre farm in western Wayne County.

My great-grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Davis Herring, was born August 4, 1815, and died September 11, 1911 and was Daniel Davis' oldest sister. She, too, was first Methodist and later united with the Free Will Baptists and joined Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church about one mile west of Pikeville, NC. She showed by the life she lived that she had a firm foundation with her Savior the Lord Jesus Christ. Being afraid horses, she was known to walk around seven miles to attend her church after she was eighty years old.

Most of the public county schools were only one room with one teacher where grades one through seven were taught. Those desiring a high school degree had to go to a boarding school. It was



decided that the seminary should provide for a primary and grammar department as well as several curricula for students equivalent to high school.

Out of town students boarded and lodged in private homes for a cost of eight to ten dollars per month. Tuition for a ten week term of high school was \$6.00, grammar grades were \$5.00 and primary paid \$2.50. For most ministerial students, the tuition was free.

In 1905 a total of 133 were enrolled in various curricula. The school was co-educational in every department. The study of the Bible and its spiritual and moral lessons were regular features, with a Christian atmosphere. The concerns of our leaders in the denomination were for our ministers to take advantage of the educational opportunities available but many saw little need while others saw its benefits. Even the Free Will Baptist paper published statements on the "backwardness of some of our uneducated ministers."

In 1909 and 1910, a financial agent was employed to raise funds to help pay off the indebtedness of the seminary. A two-story dormitory for the girls and women teachers was erected on campus in 1911, with a living room and a music room. The main building was enlarged and modern equipment was included along with books and other reference materials. On the first floor was a spacious auditorium with a stage large enough for dramatic productions.

Seating for the auditorium was a major project, but Anna Phillips, an invalid, asked to take on the challenge. She felt confident that with God's help she could raise enough funds. Her husband, Elder E. T. Phillips was editor of the Free Will Baptist paper, so she made appeals through the paper, wrote friends, and asked that prayers be offered to God on behalf of the needs for the seminary. Finally, enough money was raised to place 487 chairs and other furnishings in the auditorium which was used for many important meetings.

The seminary was still in debt after building the girl's dormitory. Mrs. Phillips decided to help raise money to pay off this debt. She also pointed out the need for a boy's dormitory.

Anna Phillips was later honored for her unselfish labor in the cause of Christian education when the State Women's Auxiliary Convention agreed to establish an "Educational Loan Fund" for needy students. Many Free Will Baptist young people have benefitted from this "Loan Fund" while pursuing their education at a college of their choice.

According to a statement in the Seminary Catalogue for 1912-13, the school had a two-fold purpose. It was to prepare boys and girls for the best colleges in the state and to offer young men who were called to preach the gospel a chance to further their education.

In 1916, the number of students enrolled was 69 with nine ministerial students and eight graduates.

The nation was at war in 1918, and the farmers in eastern North Carolina were enjoying prosperity. When the war ended, it was felt the seminary would make great progress with a view toward becoming a degree granting college. They knew that more funds would be required for operation and Rev. J. W. Alford was elected financial agent. In 1919, his efforts were very successful. M. C. Prescott was employed to take Alford's place in 1920. Prescott presented a proposal at the 1920 session of the State Convention to raise \$300,000 for the erection of an administration building and two dormitories on a new campus site, consisting of 14 acres on the east side of Ayden. An architect was hired to prepare plans and the board decided to close the seminary in order to concentrate on raising funds for the new facility. This proved to be a mistake because many lost interest when students had to seek admission to other schools to continue their education.

In July 1924, Mr. C. E. Prescott was elected superintendent and during the week of August 4 - 8, a "Summer School for Christian Workers" was held at the seminary. This school featured courses in Bible, Church Organization, Church Music, the Free Will Baptist League, Sunday School, Ladies' Aid Societies and Evangelism. A total of 75 persons attended.

In January 1926, the name "The Free Will Baptist Seminary" was changed to "Eureka" by a unanimous vote. Many efforts on behalf of the Free Will Baptist denomination concerning the educational benefits of the college were published and promoted in every way possible. Despite their enthusiasm, the number of students enrolled the first year on the new campus was less than 50 in all departments including high school. When the administration building was completed, it was an attractive facility with an estimated value of \$100,000.00. The curricula for the first two years of college would be offered in Music, Bible, Mathematics, Science, Language and Business in addition to a state approved high school curriculum. At this time most of the public schools were offering high school so students did not have to go to boarding schools to get a high school education.

The college had a well qualified faculty, but without adequate students it was impossible to retain them. Income from tuition and gift support was not equal to the cost of operation. Disappointment increased when the enrollment at the college fell short of expectations. The Free Will Baptist still had not seen the importance of a college education both for the denomination and for the individual student. They had never been called upon to give large sums of money toward any cause nor had they been taught to give systematically to the church for local needs or for denominational enterprises. Few churches were supporting full-time pastors and a majority of them were giving only a small amount to causes such as orphanage or college. The main reason was the lack of stewardship training in the ministry and leadership of the denomination. So, when the State convention began to develop programs requiring large sums of money, there was not a planned system for that kind of support.

By now the Nation was suffering from an economic depression and when the State Convention met in September 1930, little could be done to help the college except to urge a continuation to stand behind the signers of the long term loan. The following year a tragedy occurred when fire completely destroyed the main building of Eureka College on November 4, 1931. The Free Will Baptist realized this great loss for they had strived to keep an educational program for more than 30 years. Fortunately, the insurance covered most of the indebtedness so the signers of the long term loan did not have to sustain the loss.

These loyal Free Will Baptist never gave up even though they were greatly burdened because some of our ministers had to get their education in colleges of other denominations. It was thought by some that when the Lord called a person to preach he would put words in his mouth. This being partially true, He still expects the minister to prepare himself and use his ability to put these words in the right place to get the Lord's message across.

Most of these interesting facts about the hardship and faithfulness of the Free Will Baptist was taken either from Dr. Floyd Cherry or Dr. Michael Pelt's History of the Original Free Will Baptist. Dr. Pelt said "Such dreams do not die easily if they arise out of genuine needs of aspirations of a people who feel they have a purpose to fulfill." The next generation of the Free Will Baptist were to see their dreams become a reality in the founding of Mount Olive College. Another source of information was Rev. J. W. Alford, when he pastored our church in the 1950's. This was during his senior years and he would come to our home to rest, and finding we were interested, he would reminisce about his early years in the ministry. He spoke of the seminary at Ayden and it being destroyed by fire and the disappointment he suffered and his regrets in their failure to rebuild. He had received his education there and had promoted the college with all his ability.

During these depression years of the late 1920's and early 30's, almost every family was affected and a lot of the older children had no other choice but to drop out of school and go to work to help support their families. At this time it was compulsory for children to attend public school until they were 14 years old. Some would say a girl did not need book learning to rock a cradle, and boys could follow a mule pulling a plow if he could reach the handles. Cultivation of the farms was still carried on in a primitive way. Most farmers raised enough corn and hay to feed their livestock. Cotton was their largest money crop. Some farmers had started planting tobacco which was a big boost in their income but required a longer working season and more people to do the labor. Grown men worked all day from sunrise to sunset, about 10 or 12 hours for 75 cents or \$1.00. These were not eight hour days and jobs were scarce.

It was during these years that the banks closed their doors holding their customers' money because they were not insured as they are today. Those having money in their care lost all but a small percentage causing them to lose their land and homes because they had to borrow money to live on and could not pay it back.

President Herbert Hoover was elected in 1929 which was a bad time since this was during the great depression. Many of the people could not afford a car and keep it in running condition for transportation so they walked or rode a bicycle. Some took the back axle and wheels from their old car and using their own imagination to design and build a cart to be pulled by a mule. The seats from the car were used by some for more comfort. These carts were called "Hoover Carts" and some were comical in design. During the early 30's they had a parade in downtown Goldsboro to show off their "Hoover Carts." One man pulled his cart and rider because he said that Hoover had taken his mule.

The name of our church was changed in 1926 from "Stony Hill" To "Stoney Creek" during the pastorate of Rev. A. A. Wells. Before the American Civil War, the Original Free Will Baptist allowed slaves to belong to the same church as their owners, but without voting privileges. After the war was over and the slaves freed, they were not satisfied because they still were not given the right to vote in the church so they organized their own churches. It is thought that the church and school with a black membership called "Stony Hill" on Highway 117 North of Belfast were some coming from our church causing a confusion in their names.

On July 23, 1927, the church agreed to give Bro. J. J. Bivens a note amounting to \$150.00 for a piano due in January 1, 1928. They had used a pump organ before buying the piano.

In October 1928, our church went on record as endorsing the \$5,000 movement of the State Convention to give on the denomination's Accredited Junior College at Ayden, North Carolina, and that we pay our part which was \$150.00. Bro. T. B. Sasser suggested that the men each pay \$1.50 and the women 50 cents.

In April 1929, a committee was appointed to write the obituary of Rev. N. S. Lancaster and Bro. Leonard R. Bryant Combs due to their recent deaths. Bro. Charlie Sullivan and wife were elected to succeed Bro. Combs as Treasurer and Trustee.

Bros. J. B. Forehand and W. T. Forehand were elected as acting trustees to purchase or secure a parcel of land from Bro. J. B. Howell and wife, Glennie, for our protection as a Free Will Baptist Church. The trustees later reported their findings of records of the boundaries and the title of Stoney Creek Church in the register of deeds office in Book 3 page 392 at the Wayne County Courthouse, Goldsboro, North Carolina. Since Bro. J. B. Howell died that year the members must have felt the deed should be properly recorded. The land the church was built on was given by his parents Bro. Exum and Martha Howell in 1884.

From day one after the Delco plant was installed according to the minutes it was quite a struggle to make payments and to keep the plant in proper operation. Bro. John H. Tilton was sexton and was in charge of maintenance. At almost every business meeting he would present a bill for parts and repairs. On January 25, 1930, there was a letter from Dillon Supply read to the church considering the balance due on the Delco battery. Several ladies agreed to give a chicken and others gave a donation all amounting to \$27.00. It was agreed for the ladies to sell the organ and put that money on the battery bill for the plant.

All men were asked to give a day's work or \$1.00 in February 1930, to help pay for material used to fix the stove chimney.

October 25, 1930, a collection was taken for the preacher amounting to \$7.85. April 26, 1931, it was agreed to pay Rev. W. L. Hart \$75.00 for the past year. The church treasurer did not have the funds on hand, so it was agreed for Bros. W. T. Forehand, Amos Kirby and F. L. Bedford to go to the bank at Pikeville and borrow the money thus paying in full for the past year of 1930.

January 24, 1931, Bro. F. L. Bedford was elected Church Clerk and Rev. W. H. Lancaster was called to be our Pastor starting in July 1931 and serving through December 1940.

Rev. W. H. "Tobe" Lancaster's pastorate began in the early 30's when the economy was at its lowest. The church membership was made up mostly of poor dirt farmers with few owning cars for transportation. They had more time at home with their families and time to watch the miracle growth of Mother Nature. As we say today they could take time to smell the roses. They were strong in their faith with true dedication to do the Lord's Will. They had the leadership of a pastor who preached with all sincerity the saving knowledge of Christ and supported the Free Will Baptist denomination in all its enterprises.

Our Sunday School attendance was stable having a Card Class, Primary, Junior, Young People and Adult class. A cloth curtain that could be drawn was hung around different sections of the church giving the classes more privacy.

The "Ladies' Aid" had around 30 members on roll and showed great progress in its activity in the community, and the young people through the League filled an important place in the church by spreading the love of Christianity throughout the missions of the church. This growing interest in the young people provided guidance and encouragement at a crucial time in their lives.

We had a very talented inspirational choir made up of both the young and older people which was directed by Bro. J. Eddie Jones. On different occasions the choir would sing in other churches on Homecoming Sundays or other special services. Sometimes this choir would ride on Bro. John Tilton's flat-bed truck with racks around it so those sitting on benches and chairs would feel safer.

Our first Homecoming Service was held in October 1933 celebrating the return of Rev. Charlie E. Orton to the church and his family after his departure around 20 years before. Bro. Orton was the guest speaker and chose the "Prodigal Son" as his subject, comparing himself with the prodigal son. The old choir of his early pastorate furnished special singing of old hymns under the direction of Bros. Gover Lancaster and W. B. Howell. Bro. Orton was graciously received back into the fellowship of the church where he lived out his days faithfully serving his Lord.

Since Stoney Creek was the oldest church in this community, this old choir was organized there and was directed and taught music by Bro. James "Jim" Thomas. I have heard Mrs. Lillie Mae Hare Sasser tell how he recognized her God given talent and helped her to learn to play the organ in her early teens. She served her church as pianist and was a faithful servant and leader in many other way for around 65 years. Our music department has been blessed from the beginning with God-given talented musicians. There has been several singing schools where music was taught using shaped notes. Following Bro. James Thomas, one of our members, Bro. J. Eddie Jones directed the choir and taught



music for several years. Later singing schools were taught by Theodore Sisk from Toccoa, Georgia, Wayne "Rozy" Roseberry, Rev. Clyde Cox and Lloyd Forehand.

Interest of the North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptist in Missions was manifested as early as 1913. In their very first session, they included a Board of Home Missions as their permanent officers. At the 1918 session of the convention, Rev. H. M. and Lizzie McAdams were endorsed as foreign missionaries to Barbados, but they returned to the states after a few months for lack of support. Due to the fact the Convention had decided to withdraw from the co-operative General Association they had no foreign mission program. The first few years all the mission work was done on the home field. One or two missions were begun that developed into churches.

The Convention was urged to be liberal with their contributions and the money to be placed on deposit until someone was approved by the Mission Board to a foreign field. The word Home had been dropped and was known only as Mission Board. In 1929, the Mission Board reported they had deposited \$250.00 for foreign missions and \$23.55 for Home Missions in the Bank of Kenly, NC, which failed in 1931 leaving them with no funds.

But as family income increased, the support for the church program of every kind showed a significant increase.

In 1935, Miss Laura Bell Barnard from Glennville, Georgia, was commissioned as a foreign missionary to India and was stationed in Kataziri, South India. She was the first foreign missionary to go from the Original Free will Baptist General Conference. In 1936, the General Conference endorsed Rev. and Mrs. Thomas E. Willy for work in South America, but they went to Panama instead where they continued to get support from the Free Will Baptist. At this time there was a growing interest in missions both home and foreign. Various conferences began to see a need for church extensions. Attention was called to Christ's command to make disciples among all nations.

January 27, 1934, at the church business meeting they had a general discussion concerning the lighting system. It was agreed to appoint a committee to take the Delco light plant and use it as best they could in getting lights for the church. Some of the members bought parts that they could use and others gave or pledged enough to pay \$18.75 that was due on the kerosene mantle Aladdin lamps that hung from the ceiling. They gave a good light and were a great improvement over the old wick type kerosene lamps. About a year later, electricity was extended out to the Patetown area. In the October 1935, church business meeting, the discussion about installing electricity was voted down. Eventually, they changed their mind and put the electricity in because records show in September 1938, that it was agreed to draw on the treasurer for \$4.75 to pay the light bill.

In July 1934, Bro. Iredell Kennedy who had been serving as Assistant Clerk was elected as Clerk. He and His wife, Dessie, were appointed to clean the church and to keep the church doors locked. The denomination was sponsoring Bro. W. C. Willis as missionary and the church had been giving \$1.00 per month for this cause. At this time, they decided to send the missionary money to help pay on the property at Smithfield for a Bible College instead of to Bro. W. C. Willis. The Smithfield Free Will Baptist Church was facing a financial crisis which prompted them to offer their church property to the Convention to be used as a Bible School. The Convention was to assume the mortgage on the property and the church would be allowed to continue using the facility for regular church services. This offer was accepted by the Convention in the 1933 session to begin operation on September 20, 1934. Our Pastor, Rev. W. H. Lancaster, was the first student to register for classes. When a report was made to the Convention in 1935 on the progress of the Smithfield Bible School, it was revealed that churches and individuals were not giving the support needed to continue this program. For lack of interest in education and the scarceness of money in the denomination, another plan for a Bible School fell through.



After the organization of the National Association of Free Will Baptist of North Carolina, there was participation in the opening of the Free Will Baptist Bible College at Nashville, Tennessee, in 1942. This school was supported by money, men and prayers from North Carolina. However, our people were not pleased with the fact that the Nashville school was a Bible College with no intention of becoming anything else. Many felt the need of a liberal arts college to train our young people in a Christian atmosphere.

In April 1935, Bro. C.E. Orton agreed to preach in a revival meeting to begin second Sunday night in April continuing through the spring on each second Sunday night.

In July 1935, it was voted to draw on the church treasurer for \$9.00 to make the first payment on a rug for the isles of the church and the Ladies Aid to pay the rest by October. Bro. J.E. Jones was paid \$2.25 for paint and varnish for the preachers stand and \$1.90 to buy door hinges and locks.

The Ladies' Aid chose to adopt an orphan Lexine Craft from the orphanage to support and the church voted to give \$6.00 to help buy clothes for her in 1935. That sounds like a small amount but they could buy enough material for some of the ladies to make her a dress for around \$.50. The next year a committee Bros. Dan Lancaster, W.T. Forehand and W.H. Jones were elected to solicit our \$.10 per member assessment for the orphanage. Then in October of 1937 Bros. Don Lancaster, Cleatus Sullivan and Sister Dora Combs were appointed as orphanage committee to put on the \$.25 per member drive. Sister Maggie Crumpler was elected sexton and was paid \$1.00 per month out of the morning offering.

In the mid 1930's we were blessed to have around thirty Senior and Junior youth who were organized into the program of the "League" which was an organization endorsed by the Original Free Will Baptist General Conference to help develop our young people in their spiritual growth that would give them a desire to be used of Christ and the Church in promoting the kingdom of God. This organization was similar to Sunday School using a quarterly and meeting once each week. This was a study of a variety of topics aimed at encouraging Christian growth and to strengthen them in the work of the local church. Our league was very successful under the leadership of Mrs. Lillie Mae Sasser. We were blessed to have the Rev. Clarence Bowen and his wife, Rose, come to our church with their talent to work with our young people in the League. Rev. Bowen was newly ordained and was working as field secretary and worked promoting the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. A great need for evangelism was found in this community and some of our church families welcomed them in their homes so they spent right much time here leading unsaved souls to Christ. In 1939, Mrs. Sasser and the Bowens helped the Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist League with the presentation of a drama "The Challenge of The Cross" in our church and seven other churches during the months of March and April. This pageant was a beautiful challenge to any sacrificial Christian service. Many of our leaguers have served their church as Christian leaders such as becoming ministers, deacons, Sunday School and Bible School teachers as well as promoting the work of missions.

The first camping program mentioned in the records of the State Convention appeared in 1936 in the League report. Stating the League has promoted a young peoples camp and it has field workers out in the field for the promotion of the young peoples work. The League Convention and the Sunday School Convention were renting Camp Leach located in the eastern part of the state on the Pamlico River below Washington, North Carolina from the Episcopalians until 1944 when the camp was no longer available.

Along with the League there was a growing interest also in women's organizations in the local church. After many years being known as the "Ladies Aid Society" our ladies were reorganized as the "Women's Auxiliary" in 1937. Women were usually active in the local churches, seeking ways they could serve the community where they lived as well as the benevolent causes sponsored by the denomination. Our women were mostly farmers wives; money was tight and times were hard, but they

had a great determination and were able to do many things for the Lord. They took the responsibility of cleaning the church and grounds and sometimes they did painting. In summer many jars of food were canned for the orphanage and they made and quilted quilts also. To raise money to boost the treasurer, they would sell chickens and eggs and in the fall they worked cured tobacco getting it ready for market. Some of the ladies would prepare a chicken stew for lunch while the others worked. Our auxiliary has been very successful in their endeavors and has grown rapidly in membership and activities and are divided into circles now in order to enhance individual participation and provide a closer fellowship.

The auxiliary held cottage prayer meetings the week before Easter and in the afternoons during a week of our revival which last for two weeks most of the time.

The church met in conference in October of 1939 and agreed to draw on the treasurer for \$4.50 to finish paying for lights. Bro. Alphus Jones and Sisters Sarah Lancaster and Dixie Sullivan were elected as a committee to raise \$53.00 to be sent to the orphanage. January 1940. It was agreed to accept the resignation of Sister Mary Sullivan as treasurer. Bro. Guy Pate was elected to replace her. Friday before fourth Sunday in February was set to beautify the church grounds.

In April 1940, a report from the Pulpit Committee was heard and Rev. Clarence Bowen from Durham, North Carolina, was called as pastor, succeeding Rev. W. H. Lancaster.

In October 1940, it was brought to the attention of the church that a Deacon should not serve as a Ruling Elder also. So an entire new board of Ruling Elders with the exception of one was elected, to be ordained later, Bros. L.B. Pate, Guy Pate, Clement Sullivan, H. B. Hughes, and M.A. Sullivan.

Rev. Clarence Bowen preached his first sermon on fourth Sunday in November 1940, as our pastor at which time a memorial service was had for Bros. Charlie Sullivan and J.Eddie Jones, who had recently passed away.

In January 1941, Sister Dora Combs and Bro. Benjamin Lancaster, the delegates to the Union Meeting were given permission by the church to ask for the next union meeting to be held in June, this being the first time, I have known Stoney Creek to entertain the Union. A committee of Bros. Jessie and Guy Pate and Sisters Nora Pate and Dora Combs were asked to make arrangements for the meeting. Mr. Bowen agreed to get four ushers from the church. The buildings and repair committee Bros. Bill Pate, Tom Forehand and wife, Sisters Lillie Mae Sasser and Dixie Sullivan were asked to get a driveway fixed out to the Patetown Rd South of the church. Ashley Kennedy remembers Bro. Guy Pate bringing his tractor down to the church to do this work, his tractor was one of the first in this farming area.

Our first church budget was adopted in July 1941, after Rev. Clarence Bowen explained the calendar plan with twelve captains one for each month to raise \$30.00 each of the approved amount of \$360.00 with all phases of the denominational enterprises included.

On October 1941, it was agreed to buy a proposed lot of land from Mr. J. Lloyd Sullivan, to enlarge the cemetery and parking area. Bros. J.B. Forehand, Guy Pate, and J.C. Sasser were elected as a new board of trustees for our church property. After receiving the land for the cemetery extension a committee Bros. Jessie Pate, J.C. Sasser and Iredell Kennedy were nominated to get family plots laid off and by common consent the money received from the sale of these plots to be used to beautify the cemetery.

Life styles made a drastic change in the forties, with the breaking out of World War II, and the drafting of our young men into military services. Many of these men were away from their families and homes over four years. More of our people were working public jobs and money for our support was easier to raise. As family incomes increased, support for the church program of every kind showed a significant increase. After an increase in membership they decided in April 1942 to revise the roll, leaving the names of those that had missed as many as four quarterly meetings on the roll in the old book. The clerk was asked to write to the 104 on the roll and explain the new requirement.

In October 1943, after a brief statement by the secretary of the Board of Deacons, a new budget of \$600.00 per year was approved.

In January 1944, Bro. Bowen suggested that different members place flowers in the church in memory of some loved one. Mrs. J.C. Sasser was asked to buy flowers at the expense of the church if no one supplied them. In April, it was agreed that our pastor serve indefinitely instead of the old plan of calling them each year. A motion was made to leave off calling the roll every quarter and call it once a year instead.

In April 1945, Rev. Bowen presented his resignation and Bro. Claxton Sasser, Guy Pate and Sister Dora Combs were elected to serve as a pulpit committee. In June, we had a call meeting to call a pastor. After a brief discussion it was agreed to change our regular church services from the fourth Sunday to third Sunday in each month and Rev. Clifton Rice of Kinston was called to begin his services on the third Sunday in August and he was to be paid \$30.00 per month. Bro. Iredell Kennedy resigned as clerk in July 1945 and in October, by motion, Sister Lucille Lancaster was elected as clerk.

As early as October 1945, the need of Sunday School rooms was discussed and a building fund was started. In October 1946, a barbecue supper and harvest sale was held to boost the building fund. Then in January 1947, the Building Committee composed of Bros. Iredell Kennedy, Claxton Sasser, Guy Pate and Sisters Lillie Mae Sasser and Dixie Smith were given authority to do whatever they saw fit in planning and building Sunday School rooms. Plans were made to separate the building where the t-part was connected and add an extension of around fifteen feet, consisting of another window, a section of wall and an outside door opening into the north end of a hall separating the sanctuary and the five Sunday School rooms in the old t-part. I was told by Bobby Kennedy that Iredell, his father, and Mr. Brantley Pate, the contractor, sawed the t-part or wing off from the sanctuary with a hand saw as this was before we had power saws. The entire building was moved nearer and parallel to the cemetery to give more parking space. Mr. Roland Vause from Kinston, a friend of Pastor Rice, was hired to move the building.

In the sanctuary, the old eighteen pane windows were replaced with stained glass memorial windows given by different families. An elevated choir loft and pulpit were built across the front of the sanctuary with a door on each side of the pulpit entering the hallway where there were stairs going to the second floor. The ceiling in the t-part was high enough to accommodate two floors with three Sunday School rooms on the first floor and the area on the second floor was divided by folding doors giving two rooms that could be opened up and used as one large room for different occasions. Mr. Guy Pate donated a large oil heater to heat the sanctuary and small portable oil heaters were used in the Sunday School rooms. The building fund amounted to \$2,481.73, labor for carpenters \$648.35, wiring \$65.00, moving building \$135.00, tinners \$117.45, materials \$1,500.52, and gas and oil \$5.50, a total of \$2,471.82 for expenses, leaving a balance on hand of \$9.91. In April 1947, after a discussion concerning money to finish the building, a motion was made to borrow \$100.00 each from Bro. J.B. Forehand, J.C. Sasser and Guy Pate for a total of \$300.00 to be paid back by November 1, 1947. In October 1947, after a general discussion about the indebtedness of the choir chairs, a motion was made for the church treasurer to pay for them. In January 1948, a special offering of \$33.30 was taken to be used to paint the church roof. Later at the April meeting a motion to build six picnic tables was made and Bros. Esper Futrell and Jessie Pate agreed to fill the places of Sisters Lillie Mae Sasser and Dixie Smith on the Building Committee to get them built.

In January 1948, Rev. Clifton Rice, our pastor, was asked to come and preach each first Sunday night taking a free will offering to pay for that service. Bros. Oliver Smith and Freddie Hare volunteered to be in charge of keeping the cemetery and church yard clean to be followed the next year by Bros. Jessie Pate and M.A. Sullivan. In July 1948, Bro. Esper Futrell was elected church clerk.

In April 1949, Sister Lillie Mae Sasser volunteered to help get Rev. Charlie Orton's name on the super annuation list. In our next meeting Pastor Rice gave some interesting remarks concerning our old aged ministers. Bro. Iredell Kennedy and Sister Lillie Mae Sasser resigned from the building committee and Bros. Clifton Sullivan and Leroy Howell replaced them.

In May 1949, the church decided to start raising our budget on the Bible plan by placing tithes and offerings on the table each Homecoming Day which was the third Sunday in October. Beginning in November 1949, we started having services on half-time bases with services on first and third Sundays, and in April 1950, it was agreed to give the pastor a five dollar a month raise.

In January 1950, new pews for the church was discussed and Bro. Herbert Pate reporting the price would be \$30.00 to \$35.00 unfinished. Fixing the heater flue was left up to Bros. Leroy Howell and Claxton Sasser. Three new ushers were appointed. They were Bros. Oliver Smith, Bishop Pate, and Quinton Hare. Refinishing of the church floors was discussed and the building committee was asked to investigate. In July, Bro. Guy Pate was appointed to get an electric water pump put in the church yard.

In July 1949, after a discussion of the church budget a committee composed of Bros. Esper Futrell, Claxton Sasser, and Guy Pate was appointed to work out a budget with Bro. Pate as chairman.

In October 1949, Bro. W.B. Chase and wife were appointed to represent us at our next Union Meeting which will be held at our church. Bros. Iredell Kennedy, Paul Sullivan, Herbert Pate, Quinton Hare, and Oliver Smith were appointed to secure barbecue for the meeting. After a discussion it was decided the church would pay for half and the Sunday School would pay the other half with the auxiliaries help if they would like.

In April 1950, Bros. Quinton Hare and Herbert Pate were elected to serve on the cemetery committee and Sister Hazel Pate was appointed to serve as a deaconess of the church.

After a discussion, a motion was accepted that the board of trustees look into the matter concerning the side view of the highway regarding the church premises. This was when the Patetown Road was widened and paved. A lot of grading down was done, taking the high bank on the west front of the church yard and reshaping the whole crossroads.

The Board of Deacons of Stoney Creek Church held its first meeting on Thursday night October 12, 1950, at 8:00 o'clock. Bro. M.A. Sullivan was elected chairman and Iredell Kennedy as secretary. They set Wednesday night before third Sunday in October, January, April, and July to hold these meetings. The following recommendations were made:

First: That all major items of business be reported to the board and let it consider the matter. Then make recommendations to the church in regular conference.

Second: That any problem concerning our present pastor or a pastor to come in the future be reported to this board.

Third: That this board and Financial board rearrange our budget anytime it may become necessary, reporting to the church for final action on anything we do.

Fourth: We recommend that the church adopt the following budget for the year 1950-51.

Pastors Salary-	\$1,080.00	Education-	\$20.00
Western Conference-	\$10.00	Superannuation-	\$20.00
State Convention-	\$15.00	State promotional-	\$5.00
Union Meeting-	\$20.00	Church finances-	\$5.00
Our Revival-	\$100.00	Cragmont Assembly-	\$5.00
Orphanage-	\$50.00	Miscellaneous-	\$50.00
Missions-	\$20.00	Total-	\$1400.00



Some interesting facts about our Free Will Baptist Press. It was first discussed at the General Conference at Union Grove Church in Wayne County, November 5, 1873. Regarding the need for a Free Will Baptist paper, Rev. E. R. Ellis agreed to undertake this responsibility. The first printing office was in Fremont, North Carolina, with Rev. E. R. Ellis as editor. The paper was published weekly and called the "Free Will Baptist Advocate."

After about a year of publication from the Fremont location it was moved to Toisnot, about ten miles north of Wilson, known today as Elm City. The paper's name was changed to "Toisnot Transcript." Even though they continued to publish Free Will Baptist news, they also published news of local nature. The Free Will Baptists lost interest and ceased to subscribe and the paper failed in 1877.

The Rev. L. E. Johnson and R. H. Holland moved the printing equipment back to Fremont and changed the name back to "The Free Will Baptist Advocate." However, this effort did not make a success and publication ceased again in 1879.

In 1880, the General Conference met at Piney Grove Church in Pitt County. A resolution was passed to print the paper again at Fremont with Bro. R. K. Hearn as editor. After about one year of publication, it was moved to New Bern, North Carolina, and the word "advocate" was dropped leaving the name "The Free Will Baptist."

In 1886, at the meeting of the Conference at Black Jack Church in Pitt County, dissatisfaction of the operation and publication of the paper was discussed and a resolution was passed to loan Rev. Hearn the press as long as he published the paper in the interest of the Free Will Baptist, but in 1889 Rev. Hearn resigned due to failing health.

In 1889, a stock company was formed and moved the printing equipment to Snow Hill and the Rev. W.L. Bilbro was employed as editor until April 15, 1890, and was replaced by Rev. J. M. Barfield remaining in Snow Hill until 1891 when it was moved to Ormondsville where it remained until it was moved again in the spring of 1895 to Ayden, North Carolina. That same year when the State Convention met at Bailey, the charter of the Free Will Baptist publishing company was changed or amended. In 1914, when the reorganization was completed the name was changed to "The Ayden Free Will Baptist Printing Company."

At first things went well for the new company, but in 1916 it went bankrupt again. Most of the employees quit including editor Rev. E. T. Phillippo who had been editor since 1898. Only the general manager, Rev. J. C. Griffin remained.

Rev. T.B. Mellette was employed to restart the paper in the summer of 1916. However, on September 1, 1916, he and the Rev. J. C. Griffin left and Mr. C. K. Dunn became editor and business manager, and the business grew. In 1921, Rev. E. T. Phillippo returned as editor.

During the depression of the early thirties Mr. Dunn said "There were times that I didn't know where the money was coming from to pay the employees, but I worked and trusted in the Lord and we always made it." We have had several different dedicated editors through the years.

At the present time the press publishes "The Free Will Baptist", the Sunday School and league literature for the Original Free Will Baptists, daily vacation Bible School literature, the Woman's Auxiliary and youth program books; and has four book stores for the sale of books and church supplies in Ayden, New Bern, Smithfield, and Wilson.

The press operates as an independent corporation today and the State Convention has no direct control. The stock is owned by Free Will Baptist Churches, Conferences, Union Meetings, Sunday School Conventions, etc. It's an Original Free Will Baptist institution we are proud of after such a struggle to make it what it is today.



Even though the Original Free Will Baptists were still known as a rural denomination, after World War II and what was called the “baby boomers” that gave us such a great increase in the population, the farmers began to enjoy a higher level of a prosperous life style. They changed their primitive way of farming by doing away with the mules and the one-row cultivators along with the walking plows. This was the beginning of the “Machine Age.” They bought farm tractors and larger equipment so they could cultivate more land giving them an increase in income. Almost all families owned a car or truck for transportation which gave them a better chance to enjoy participating in the church activities week after week. This caused a substantial growth in church attendance. At this time we had Sunday School and young people’s league weekly, and worship services on Sunday morning and night twice each month since we had gone to half-time service. The Woman’s Auxiliary met in one of the member’s home once each month.

In the mid-forties after the public schools closed for the summer months, our church started having a successful week of “Vacation Bible School,” with Bible study using special literature and instructions for simple crafts for the children to make. A special program was given at the close of the week giving the children a chance to “show and tell” their new knowledge and experiences of the past week.

During the depression of the early thirties, the Free Will Baptists of North Carolina confronted defeat twice in trying to establish a Bible School to educate our ministers and young people--first with the seminary at Ayden and then the Bible School at the Free Will Baptist Church in Smithfield.

After the Organization of the National Association, the Free Will Baptists of North Carolina participated in the opening of the Free Will Baptist Bible College at Nashville, Tennessee, in 1942. They supported the school with money, men and their prayers. However, most of the Free Will Baptists in North Carolina were not satisfied to support a Bible School in another state. They still felt the need for a local liberal arts College to train all of our young people in a Christian atmosphere.

After renting Camp Leach from another denomination for several years, much interest in developing a Christian retreat for all ages was discussed between the State Sunday School Convention, the League Convention and the Woman’s Auxiliary. At the annual meeting of the State Convention of Churches in 1942, Rev. M. L. Johnson, Chairman of the Camp Committee, requested that support for the building of an Assembly be approved by the Convention of Churches and that the Convention authorize a suitable site in cooperation with the Sunday School League and Woman’s Auxiliary Conventions. A committee representing each of these organizations was formed to help find a suitable site. Even though several suggested locations were visited, no final decision was made until the summer of 1945, when they were informed that the Cragmont Sanatorium Property in Buncombe County near Black Mountain was available. After visiting the site, the Committee agreed to take an option on the property with one large building and several smaller ones on 115 acres of land with six acres of it cleared on the slopes of Mt. Allen.

This property was appraised at \$15,000.00, but could be bought for \$10,000.00. Rev. James Evans, Chairman of the fund raising campaign, chose ten captains each being responsible for raising \$1,000.00 by soliciting from individuals, churches and other church organizations. Once the property was deeded to the Board of Trustees, Cragmont Assembly was incorporated with a Board of Directors, and a manager was chosen to be responsible for day to day operation. In 1946, the first week-long Conferences were held. The first Sunday School Institute was conducted during two weeks of June. Each year since, the Ministerial Association of the Original Free Will Baptists has sponsored a Minister’s Conference which includes the annual meeting of the Association of Cragmont. Likewise, the Youth and Woman’s Auxiliary Conferences have been conducted each summer since 1946.

In 1951, the State Convention voted to authorize its Board of Christian Education to make application for a charter for the purpose of establishing a college under the auspices of the Convention. This charter was issued by the North Carolina Secretary of the State Convention on November 27, 1951.

On September 22, 1952, Mount Allen Junior College was opened at Black Mountain, North Carolina, in the building of the Cragmont Assembly with Rev. Lloyd Vernon as President with six students enrolling in September and a total of twelve during the year. Study courses included high school subjects, business education, religious education and Bible.

Camping at the Cragmont Assembly has constantly proven to be the most enjoyable and successful blessing that our denomination has ever invested in. Our church families from the youngest through the oldest have been spiritually blessed by attending its well planned activities each year.

On April 11, 1951, when the Board of Deacons met they learned that the Sunday School had voted to pay half of the expense of the Bible School if the church would pay the other half. So they accepted the challenge to pay the other half. A youth revival was discussed and the Deacons reported they had secured Rev. R. E. Clegg of Durham, North Carolina, to do the preaching starting the first Sunday night in June, and Rev. James Evans had agreed to run the fall revival.

In July 1951, a heating system for the church was discussed and an investigating committee was appointed with Bro. Oliver Smith as chairman, Bros. Milton Best and Ed Combs were chosen to serve with him. They decided to change from oil to gas heat, and the church was asked to hire someone to be responsible for lighting and turning the system off.

In October 1951, Bro. J. C. Sasser and family volunteered to take the responsibility for all occasions and the church agreed to pay them \$6.00 a month. The Woman's Auxiliary was responsible for doing the house cleaning at this time. Due to health conditions, Bro. Guy Pate resigned as Church Treasurer and Bro. Milton Best was elected to succeed him. Bro. Oliver Smith was appointed to serve as Building Fund treasurer.

In January 1952, a motion was made to secure Rev. Bobbie Jackson to run a revival the first week in June. It was decided to take two offerings during the week of revival, and if the service continued through the second Sunday, the third offering would be taken. Our pastor's salary was raised to \$100.00 a month.

In 1952, after enlarging our sanctuary, a need for a vestibule to complete our church was realized. After several months of planning the Building Committee decided the Church had to be moved back in order to give space enough in front of the church for this addition. Mrs. Cora Pate Ray graciously donated a strip of land that joined the church property across the back for which we were grateful. In October, Sister Lillie Mae Sasser asked permission to have windows put in the vestibule and the church agreed to pay for the carpentry work.

In July 1952, a motion was made to ask Bro. S. A. Smith and the children from the Orphanage to come and hold services on the first Sunday in October. Services for our youth on each first Sunday night was discussed and a committee consisting of Sisters Elizabeth Lancaster, Dixie Smith, Lucille Lancaster and Dorothy Sullivan was appointed to arrange these services. A motion was made to take a free will offering for the speaker. The church agreed to buy flowers for the Memorial Services held on Homecoming Day in October.

After the resignation of our Pastor, Rev. Clifton Rice, in October, the members met November 15, 1952, and the main purpose was to elect a pastor. The majority present voted for Rev. John W. Alford of Morehead, North Carolina, as our pastor. Bro. Clifton Sullivan was elected treasurer of the church after Bro. Milton Best resigned. A motion was made to notify our pastors 60 days in advance if we wanted to make a change and they are to notify the church 60 days in advance if they wish to make a change.

On April 25, 1953, Sister Lucille Lancaster asked the church to buy paper and stencils to help the young people with their project of printing our first church bulletins. Our first Harvest Sale was sponsored by the Sunday School and Woman's Auxiliary in the fall of 1953 netting \$1,824.00 which was placed in the building fund.

Mrs. Lillie Mae Sasser, Clifton Sullivan, my husband, and I were delegates to the State Convention in September 1953, at Marsh Swamp Church in Wilson County when the Board of Christian Education recommended that the Mount Allen Junior College be moved nearer the middle of the state where there were more Free Will Baptist churches and a greater number of youth. They also recommended that the abandoned elementary public school property in the town of Mount Olive on Breazeale Avenue, a whole city block, be purchased to provide facilities for the College at a cost of \$25,000.00. You would not believe the excitement of those that worked so hard and promoted the seminary at Ayden that met defeat. At last their prayers had been answered, and their vision for a College for the denomination could be a reality. The first year's expenditures at the Cragmont Assembly for Mount Allen College was \$8,561.27 leaving a balance of only \$6.17 on hand. With much enthusiasm and trusting faith, the Convention took a bold step and approved the purchase of the property in Mount Olive with such a meager amount of cash on hand and no plan to raise the money needed. Even though the property was secured as planned, the building itself needed major repairs which could not be done in time for opening of the 1953-54 session and classes in Bible and related subjects were held at the Beulaville Church with anticipation of relocating.

At the end of the 1953-54 term of school, Rev. Lloyd Vernon resigned as President of the College and the Rev. Burkette Raper was hired on August 2, 1954.

To begin a collegiate program in September 1954, Rev. David W. Hansley, Chairman of the Board of Directors, had the building prepared for use. In the spring of 1954, Rev. James A. Evans was employed by the Board of Public Relations Director to help raise funds and recruit the first class of students.

The 1954-55 term of college opened in the newly acquired property in Mount Olive on September 9, 1954, with 22 students. The new president, Dr. Raper, began an aggressive campaign to build an accredited Junior College. The name of the College was changed by the State Convention in 1955 to Mount Olive Junior College because of its location. Each year the student body increased at a rapid pace. The people were supporting the College and new personnel were being brought in to help the College to become a fully accredited Junior College. Part of the goal was realized in 1958 when accreditation was given to the young College by the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities. The goal became a full reality in 1960, when it was given accreditation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, True to the prayers of Dr. Raper, "Out of a small beginning is a vision of an institution that will be an honor to our denomination and a credit to the cause of education in general."

This demanding role as President was taken by Dr. Burkette Raper at a young age. In addition to fund raising and administrative responsibilities, he taught courses in Bible. That first year curriculum included basic courses at the freshman level and a one year business program. Courses in Bible were required in every curriculum and Chapel attendance was compulsory.

It is an educational institution of high quality, providing an opportunity for an education to many area students who might not otherwise have a chance to improve the quality of their lives. The administration of the College is committed to a policy of not denying admission to any qualified and deserving student for financial reasons. A program of financial assistance is provided through academic's and athlete's scholarships, work programs, loans and government grants, so that many with no financial resources of their own are provided the entire cost of their stay. An annual grant of

\$2,500.00 is available to qualified Free Will Baptist students, members of the churches holding membership in the Convention and involved in College or church-related services. The competent faculty and staff under the inspired leadership of Dr. Burkette Raper are dedicated to providing opportunities for cultural, social and spiritual growth of those who attend. More than 4,600 students have experienced College life over the first 25 years of its history.

On April 25, 1953, Bro. Herbert Pate was appointed to serve on the building committee replacing Bro. Milton Best.

On November 8, 1953, a motion was proposed to set aside fourth Sunday in November to raise money for the orphanage for Thanksgiving and also for our quota for the girl's cottage.

On February 14, 1954, a new piano for the church was discussed and Brothers Guy Pate, Clifton Horne and Sisters Lillie Mae Sasser, Gaynelle Smith and Ida Lee Wooten were asked to look after this matter. The church purchased a new piano and organ combination and with this additional organ part much was added to our worship services. This instrument was priced at \$1500.00 but the money was raised so quickly, it was purchased for \$1,250.00.

On April 24, 1954, after a discussion it was decided that the offering taken on the second Sunday in May go to the orphanage. A motion was made to take an offering for our Bible College on the fourth Sunday in April.

In July 1954, the building fund treasurer, Bro. Oliver Smith, reported \$1673.06 on hand. He also gave plans regarding the remodeling of the church. A Harvest Day sale was discussed and a committee of three (Brothers Jim Forehand, Freddie Hare and Tom Sasser) were appointed to help a committee from the Sunday School and one from the Auxiliary to make the plans. A Harvest Sale was held and a report was given in October that \$1,000.12 was cleared, boosting our building fund to \$2,727.82. A motion was made and carried that the treasurer pay for the church bulletins for the coming year.

In October 1954, the first hurricane known to come through this area was Hurricane Hazel, doing some damage to the church roof which our insurance paid \$390.00 to do the necessary repairs.

On October 22, 1955, Bro. Guy Pate presented a check for \$100.00 to the church which was sent by Mrs. Cora Ray Pate in memory of her uncle, Bro. Tom Pate. She also offered the church more land if it were needed. Due to the great progress under the leadership of our Pastor, Rev. J. W. Alford, and the rapid increase in attendance, a need for more Sunday School class rooms was realized as a necessity. Bro. Ed Combs asked to be relieved from his duties on the building committee and Bro. Foy Futrell was appointed to fill his position. Others on the building committee were Brothers Oliver Smith, treasurer, T.B. Sasser, chairman, Herbert Pate and Guy Pate. The building fund treasurer gave his report with \$3,441.44 on hand. He also gave their plans for remodeling the church. After a discussion, a motion was made to give the building committee authority to start the building the following Monday. An annex down the right side of the sanctuary with a door opening from the outside on the front was added. A total of four new Sunday School class rooms with plastic accordion wall partitions and doors that could be opened were added making the sanctuary larger. The entire interior was refinished. Also new pews were added and the Woman's Auxiliary installed new carpet. The whole outside of the church was brick veneered for a total cost of approximately \$10,000.00.

In January 1956, the building committee was given authority to dispose of the gas heaters that were not needed after a gas furnace was installed which gave us central heat.

In April 21, 1956, the Union Meeting that meets four times each year of the Original Free Will Baptists asked that each church send a \$5.00 extra contribution to be used to increase the endowment of Mount Olive College \$20.00 per year. Bro. Oliver Smith gave a report of pledges up to that date for Mount Olive College from members amounting to \$2,845.00.



On July 21, 1956, a motion was made to send Bro. Carlie Hinnant, a local minister and a graduate of Bob Jones University, a check for \$40.00 for his services rendered in our Wednesday night service. Most of our pastors lived outside this area and for many years some of the leaders in our church had been faithful in promoting a Bible study and prayer meeting in the middle of the week but attendance was slack. Records show that Bro. Hinnant worked with us for more than a year and through his efforts he revived an interest that has kept us faithful through the years.

On October 27, 1956, after much discussion a motion was carried to place a collection plate in the vestibule during the revival services for those who wished to give a special donation to the evangelist during the services.

Also, Sister Eloise Futrell was nominated to act as church reporter.

On January 26, 1957, the clerk was asked to purchase a new roll book in order to keep up with attendance at each quarterly meeting.

On April 26, 1957, the roll was called with 56 present and 89 absent giving a total of 145 members. The pulpit committee recommended Bro. James A. Evans of Wilson, North Carolina, as our pastor for the coming year. A large majority of the members voted for him.

On July 27, 1957, Mr. Guy Pate stated that Dr. J. W. Rose had released his right to the plot of land deeded to Stoney Creek Church across the road where the old cotton gin was. He also stated he had a total of \$145.10 expenses in tearing the gin down. A motion was made that we accept the lot deeded from Mrs. Lillie Mae Sasser and the quit-claim to the lease on the lot debt of \$145.10 to be paid at a later date. We use this lot now for an extra parking area.

On October 19, 1957, a motion was passed for the building committee to be given authority to launch an educational building program with water and bathroom facilities.

On January 18, 1958, Bro. Henry Matthews was recommended as chairman of the church ushers and for Brothers Milton Futrell, C.W. Turner, Richard Sasser and Delbert Scott to serve with him. A report was given by the "Guy Pate Sunday School Class" on the harvest sale and supper which netted \$498.00. A motion was made that the youth choir be in charge of the special singing in the Sunday morning services and to form and adult choir to serve on Sunday night.

On April 26, 1958, the pulpit committee recommended that we call our present pastor, Bro. James A. Evans, as pastor for the coming year and his salary be raised \$10.00 each month.

On July 19, 1958, the resignation of Bro. Esper Futrell, Church Clerk and his wife Eloise Futrell, church reporter, was accepted since they were moving from the community. Bro. Quinton Hare was elected to fill the clerk's position, with Bro. Henry Matthews as his assistant, later being changed to church secretary. A committee to plan the program for Homecoming Day was elected which consisted of Bro. Edward Wooten as chairman, and Sisters Lillie Mae Sasser and LaVerle Futrell to help. The motion was made that the third Sunday night in October be Loyalty Fund Night for Mount Olive College with Rev. M. L. Johnson as speaker.

In October, 1958, a motion that the trustees get an appraisal of the value of the church property was approved. Also, in January a motion was made to increase our church Board of Trustees from three to five and Bro. Roy Waddell and Denver Mitchell were appointed to serve with those already serving.

On April 25, 1959, the building committee treasurer gave a report with \$1,077.46 on hand, and he also gave a report on the new educational building. It is a rectangular cement block building with a large open fellowship hall with a serving bar separating it from the kitchen on the south side. There are three doors opening from the outside, one in the middle of the front on the north opening into the fellowship hall, another in the east end that was connected to the church and the other in the back part of the kitchen. A ladies' and men's restrooms are next in line on the south wall next to the kitchen and then three small Sunday School class rooms with two more across the west end. A motion was made to



accept this report, after which the contractor, Mr. Cecil Pender, of Eureka presented the keys of the building to the church. Work on the building was completed in 1959 at a cost of \$10,300.00. The building was dedicated July 16, 1961, debt free, by our former pastor, Rev. James A. Evans, then of Bryan, Texas. We were so thankful and proud of this new building. It gives us a place to have receptions, showers, and other smaller meetings. The running water and restrooms were really enjoyed.

Since the month of May was traditionally our month to send one Sunday morning offering to the Children's Home, the church asked that they send a representative from the home to speak.

A motion was approved on July 18, 1959, to have our Missionaries to Cuba, Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Willey, conduct services on Sunday morning, August 9, instead of our regular night service.

On August 23, 1959, due to other plans our pastor, Rev. James A. Evans, asked to be relieved from his duty after the third Sunday in September, and Rev. J.W. Alford agreed to supply until we could secure a pastor.

A motion was carried on April 16, 1960, that Bro. Herbert Pate buy cement blocks to outline the church cemetery.

On July 16, 1960, Sister Lula Gardner asked the church for permission to form a nursery for children up to three years of age. The request was granted with this being our first nursery.

A motion was made and seconded that a church treatise be presented to our new members and for week night services to begin at 8 o'clock with Sunday nights remaining at 7:30 o'clock. The pastor was given authority to purchase visitation cards and other miscellaneous items needed and the church would reimburse him. During a regular Sunday church service, the board of trustees gave a report concerning our church grounds and driveways. The church agreed for the state to fix them as they see fit. That is when the hill was rounded and sloped on the road bounds, giving an attractive appearance.

At a regular business meeting January 10, 1960, the pulpit committee was authorized to secure a full-time pastor with a salary of \$3,600.00 a year. Rev. Joseph Ingram of Kenly, North Carolina, was called to begin no later than September 1, 1960. Since Bro. J.W. Alford, our pastor, had health problems that prohibited him from continuing his services, Bro. Ingram got a supply for his other church and began serving us in July 1960. Plans were started May 14, 1961, to build a parsonage for our new pastor. A lot on 111 NC North near the church was bought from Sister Lillie Mae Sasser for \$1,000.00. Bro. Thomas Sasser, Chairman of the building committee, reported that Lester Forehand, Jr. a contractor, had agreed to build the parsonage with one and a half baths, a carport and floor space of 1320 square feet for \$10,300.00 without water and lights.

On July 30, 1961, the congregation of Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church situated in Stoney Creek Township, Wayne County, North Carolina, was called to hear the following resolution that was offered and unanimously adopted it.

"Be it resolved that the trustees Brothers Guy M. Pate, J.B. Forehand, Claxton U. Sasser, Roy Waddell and Denver Mitchell of the Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church borrow from Branch Banking & Trust Company of Goldsboro, North Carolina, the sum of \$9,000.00 upon such terms as may be agreed upon, said funds to be used to complete the payment to Lester Forehand, Jr. for the construction of a parsonage, and that they obtain and deposit with the bank such insurance on the parsonage as required by the bank in connection with said loan."

The parsonage was completed and Bro. Ingram and family moved in on August 22, 1961. On January 5, 1964, dedication of the parsonage was held on the front lawn. The Lord had blessed us to pay for another project, and we were blessed spiritually as well as materially. By January 20, 1962, our membership had reached 219.

Many changes have been made and numerous accomplishments that we thought impossible had come to pass.

A motion was made on October 20, 1962, for the church to purchase a new mimeograph machine. A motion was also made for the church to send a donation of \$100.00 to the Mount Olive College Scholarship fund in memory of our former pastor, the Rev. John W. Alford.

Bro. Denver Mitchell, president of the Master's Men Club, later known as the "Laymen's League" gave a report on their activities. They had invested in a reel type tape recorder and recorded the Sunday Morning services, which one of the members would take to our shut-ins and play for them. This proved to be a great blessing by helping our shut-ins to experience a feeling of fellowship with the church.

A disturbing action took place in the late 1950's when the National Association met in conflict concerning the Western Conference, thus interrupting the whole state convention and the National Association. For two decades, the North Carolina State Convention of the Original Free Will Baptist was affiliated with the National Association. They had met together to discuss their common concerns and worshiped in a spirit of brotherly love. An overwhelming gain in participation and financial support had been made in all phases of the denomination's enterprises. A spirit of cooperation was felt among them even though occasionally conflicts and differences of opinion would arise.

There is no question about the fact that the Original Free Will Baptist were congregational in government. Each church owns its own property, admits and dismisses members at will and elects its own officers, calls its own pastor and forms a contract with him as to the terms of his employment.

On November 6, 1962, at a call meeting of our church, Rev. Earl Glenn was asked to speak concerning the "split" as it was called between the State Convention and the National Association. Rev. Glenn explained our church government, Doctrine, and Missionary program, which were some of the main objectives in the conflict. The time had come for us to make a decision on our behalf concerning these existing conditions. With a spirit of unity prevailing, our church voted unanimously to support the North Carolina State Convention and Western Conference.

On April 27, 1963, the board of Trustees' report was accepted which included the church and education building to be insured at 80% of their value of \$32,000.00.

Blessings continued to flow and an increase in membership caused us to realize a need for more space to take care of this increasing growth.

On July 30, 1963, Bro. Edward Wooten gave a report concerning the purchasing of land behind the church for expansion. A motion was passed to buy the amount of land needed to build a larger sanctuary. On October 19, 1963, a lot was purchased from Mrs. Cora Pate Ray for \$1,202.00 to erect a new sanctuary, 100 feet by 40 feet, with seating capacity of over 400 people, a choir loft, a balcony, a Baptistry, Pastor's study, a sound proof nursery with a restroom and a full basement for extra Sunday School classrooms. Mr. Ben R. Boyette, a contractor, was hired and ground breaking services for the new \$85,000.00 building was held on Sunday, December 27, 1964. Construction work began in January 1965.

To the members of Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church in a call meeting December 13, 1964, by unanimous vote of the combined bodies of the Building Committee with Brothers Herbert Pate, Charles Pate, Delbert Scott, Milton Futrell and William Dale present, the Board of Deacons with Brothers Edward Wooten, Oliver Smith, Foy Futrell and Bishop Pate present; the Board of Trustees with Brothers Denver Mitchell, Ray Sullivan, Claxton Sasser and Roy Waddell present; and the Pastor Rev. Joseph Ingram, made the following recommendation; "That the church approve the plans that the Building Committee have; that the church authorize the Board of Trustees to negotiate a loan (not to exceed \$70,000.00) and to authorize the building committee to proceed with the building." This recommendation was made into a motion by Bro. William Dale and seconded by Bro. Milton Futrell and the church voted by majority that the Building Committee proceed. In January 1965, the Board of

Trustees reported on the loan negotiation, also that liability insurance had been incorporated into our present policy which will under certain conditions provide medical coverage for anyone hurt on church property.

A Furnishing Committee for the new church was announced April 17, 1965, being Sisters Lillie Mae Sasser, Dixie Smith, Elizabeth Scott and Brother Edward Errol Hollowell. New song books were bought for the new sanctuary and some of our surplus old hymn books were given to the Cragmont Assembly. The committee recommended that the building committee be authorized to use carpet in the sanctuary and that the church place an order for pews and pulpit furniture with Page Furniture Co., Albermale, NC. Also, that a memorial book be purchased and placed in the vestibule to memorialize relatives and friends:

“This Book of Remembrance was given by the Dorcas Sunday School Class, Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina. To be used to the Glory of God in Honor and in Memory of those names listed herein. This the twenty-sixth day of December in the year of our Lord, Nineteen hundred and sixty-five.”

To the Glory of God and in Honor of Rev. Joseph Ingram, Pastor

Was Presented by - Dorcas Sunday School Class

Outstanding services rendered, manual labor given and numberless hours of planning in the building of our new Church - December 26, 1965.

To the Glory of God and in Honor of Building Committee -

Herbert Pate, Delbert Scott, Charles Pate, William Dale, Milton Futrell

Was Presented by - Dorcas Sunday School Class

For a job well done in planning and helping in the building of our new church  
December 26, 1965.

To the Glory of God and in Honor of Furnishing Committee -

Mrs. Oliver Smith, Mrs. Delbert Scott, Mrs. Lillie Mae Sasser  
and Mr. Edward Errol Hollowell

Was Presented by Dorcas Sunday School Class

Wonderful job done in selecting furniture and accessories for the new church building - December 26, 1965.

To the Glory of God and in Honor of Mrs. Daisy Chase - One Sanctuary Window

Was Presented by her sister, Miss Gladys Albritton - April 3, 1966.

To the Glory of God and in Honor of Richard Calvin Sasser and Jack Hare Sasser

Two Office Chairs - Was Presented by their mother, Mrs. Lillie Mae Sasser -  
February 27, 1966

To the Glory of God and in Honor of Kathleen R. Best - August 1988

Gift of \$2,000 for Basement Remodeling - Was Presented by Guy Best Estate

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Jacob C. Sasser,

May 30, 1897-July 5, 1952

A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of the Baptistry Scene

Presented by Mrs. Lillie Mae Sasser and sons, Richard and Jack and Families  
Painted by Zeno Spence

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Nora Sasser Pate,  
April 26, 1902-July 23, 1969  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Two Palms  
Presented by Dorcas Sunday School Class and Friends in lieu of Flowers

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Guy M Pate  
January 3, 1900-October 31, 1962  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Pulpit  
Presented by Mrs. Guy M. Pate

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Iredell Kennedy,  
October 12, 1911-June 9, 1962  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of one Sanctuary Window  
Presented by Mrs. Iredell Kennedy

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of J. E. Combs,  
June 18, 1890-July 5, 1964  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Pulpit Chair  
Presented by Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Combs

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Dora Sasser Combs,  
January 1, 1893-March 26, 1950  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Pulpit Chair  
Presented by Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Combs

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Claxton Sasser,  
August 28, 1915 - January 5, 1965  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Brass Altar Set  
Presented by Mrs. Virginia Sasser and Children, Tommy, Susie and Jimmy

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Claxton Sasser,  
August 28, 1915 - January 5, 1965  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Communion Table  
Presented by Mr. & Mrs. Tom B. Sasser

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Glennie Pate Sasser  
October 8, 1896 - June 23, 1978  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Tape Ministry Equipment  
Presented by Her Family and Friends

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Elizabeth (Libby) Jones  
March 9, 1932 - September 27, 1979  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Tape Ministry Equipment

Presented by Her Family and Friends

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Lonnie B. Howell  
September 30, 1913 - June 18, 1975

A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Flower Stand  
Presented by Minnie Howell

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Henry Matthews,  
October 15, 1922 - June 8, 1965

A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Plants and Shrubbery at the New Church Building  
Presented by His Sons, LaVon, Stanley and Tony Matthews

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Robert Howell  
December 29, 1919 - October 9, 1979

A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Financial Contribution and Acknowledgment Cards  
Presented by Mrs. Robert Howell and Children

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Cooper Howell  
June 23, 1947 - December 19, 1964

A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of the Offering Plates  
Presented by The Robert Howell Family and Daughter, Theresa

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Clifton C. Horne  
May 16, 1916 - March 10, 1969

A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Flower Stand  
Presented by Darrell & Anne Horne

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Henry Matthews  
October 15, 1922 - June 8, 1965

A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of One Pew Screen  
Presented by Mrs. Henry Matthews

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Rachel Best  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Telephone Answering Equipment  
Presented by Paul & Daisy Best

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Henry Matthews  
October 15, 1922 - June 8, 1965

A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of One Pew Screen  
Presented by the Sincere Sunday School Class

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Murray A. Sullivan  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Tape Ministry Equipment  
Presented by Myrtie Sullivan, Clifton & Dorothy Sullivan, Paul & Hazel Sullivan

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Mrs. Myrtie Sullivan



A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Lights for Parking Lot  
Presented by Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sullivan, Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Sullivan and Friends  
November 1994

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Lester & Nancy Howell  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of painting lines on parking lot  
Presented by Paul & Hazel Sullivan  
November 1994

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Mr. J. B. Forehand & Mrs. Effie Forehand  
January 15, 1882 - May 8, 1965 and June 20, 1886 - March 8, 1961  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Memorial Desk  
Presented by The Family

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Annie Laurie Best  
June 15, 1909 - February 23, 1965  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Public Address System and Chimes  
Presented by Mr. Guy Best

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Roy Ginn  
April 9, 1928 - April 7, 1965  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Pew  
Presented by Mrs. Roy Ginn and Daughter

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Oliver Smith  
June 28, 1921 - April 2, 1982  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Chimes  
Presented by Family & Friends

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Joseph Lancaster  
April 22, 1913 - March 24, 1987  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Flower Urns  
Presented by Family & Friends

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Flora Neal Best  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Video Taping Equipment  
Presented by Guy Best Estate  
October 1988

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Rodney Brogden  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Sound System  
Presented by Joan Brogden  
October 1988

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Harold W. Lancaster  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of \$1,000.00 to the Building Fund  
Presented by Family & Friends

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Annie Laurie Underwood Best  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of \$2,000 for Basement Remodeling  
Presented by Guy Best Estate  
August 1988

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Guy E. Best  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a \$2,000 for Basement Remodeling  
Presented by Guy Best Estate  
August 1988

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Flora Neal Best  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Video Equipment  
Presented by Guy Best Estate  
August 1988

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
Rev. Daniel Davis (E. H. Crumpler's Wife's great grandfather),  
Thomas & Patience Pate Crumpler (E. H. Crumpler's Grandparents)  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of \$1,000 to Building Fund  
Presented by E. H. Crumpler  
July 1992

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Mrs. Lillie Mae Sasser  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Christian Flag  
Presented by Woman's Auxiliary  
May 1993

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Lila L. Pate  
February 17, 1899 - February 1, 1972  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of a Bible on Cassette  
Presented by Cora Pate Beamon  
July 1992

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Mrs. Mildred Crumpler  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Personal Listening System  
Presented by Her Children - Mrs. Joann Joyner and Edward Crumpler  
February 1996

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Terry Pilkington  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Directory Boards for Christian Education Center  
Presented by Paul & Hazel Sullivan  
March 1999

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Terry Pilkington  
A Memorial Perpetuated in a Gift of Christian Artwork for Christian Education Center  
Presented by Nancy, Trevor, Trent & Thomas Pilkington  
March 1999

Gifts were made by the following in  
Memory of Joseph Lancaster who died March 24, 1987  
Zeb, Johnnie, Donna & Susan Musgrave and Sonia & Harvey Jordan;  
Leland & Louise Hairr; Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Lancaster, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Labreque, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs.  
Morris Brookhart; Kenneth & Inez Wiggins; Teddy & Ila Gray Smith;  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Edward Wooten; Tony & Carol Stanley; Billy & Valna Jones;  
Wayne County D. S. S.; W. J. & Ella Wilkins; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Russell, Sr.;  
Maye S. Gurley; Mr. & Mrs. Will Sullivan; Jimmy Ray, Charles Ray & Frances Hare; Health  
Department Staff; Donald & Linda King; Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Lancaster;  
William & Lynn Gorges; Cecil & Louise Pope; Ambassador Sunday School Class;  
Donald & Carol Cuddington; The George C. "Buck" Sasser Family;  
Wayne County Register of Deeds and Employees; Mr. & Mrs. R. Penn Moore;  
Milton Best; Mr. & Mrs. Jack Godwin; AARP Wayne County Chapter #3381;  
Rev. & Mrs. Frank Flowers; Dr. & Mrs. H. D. Tyndall; Mr. & Mrs. Raymond C. Gray; Carolina  
Warehouse, Inc.--Durwood Price, Jake Price, McKinley Price;  
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Shearin.

Gifts were made by the following in Memory of Quinton Hare who died on  
December 23, 1966;  
Mrs. Hilda P. Hinnant; Grover T. & Lori C. Dees; Cigarette and Drink Tax Units; Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie  
Atkinson; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Coleman; Mr. & Mrs. Don R. Shirley;  
Mr. & Mrs. Al Thomas; License and Excise Tax Division; Jack B. McGirt;  
Precensing Unit - License and Excise Tax; John B. Walker, Jr.; Ambrose B. Dudley;  
Faith Sunday School Class; Henry, Phyllis, Russell & Ashley Bakk; Jessie K. Stewart;  
Mr. & Mrs. George Hicks; Mr. & Mrs. Will R. Sullivan, Rev. & Mrs. Frank Flowers.

Gifts were made by the following in Memory of George C. "Buck" Sasser  
who died on February 16, 1987:  
Zeb & Johnnie Musgrave; Patetown Farm Club; Roger & Lou Kearney;  
Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Herring; Olivia B. H. & Mary Irene Benton; Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Scott; Mr. & Mrs. Will  
Sullivan, William & Lynn L. Gorges, Rev. & Mrs. Frank Flowers

A committee composed of Brothers Elliott Futrell, Oliver Smith and Denver Mitchell were  
appointed to investigate the improvement of the cemetery grounds. At a call meeting on May 9, 1965,  
Bro. Elliott Futrell chairman gave the following report. First to get an attorney to draw up a paper  
whereby to get permission of the lot owners to do the following: to level off the graves and grounds, to  
set footstones and boundary lines down level with the ground so it would be easy to mow, to haul in  
needed top soil and to ask each person owning a lot to give a minimum of \$5.00 to pay these expenses,  
with left over funds going to the building fund. The motion was carried and the church voted also to put  
a border around the cemetery where it was needed.

On others points of interest passed by the church in their business meetings were: The Deacons made a recommendation that no member of the church will have voting privileges until they have reached their twelfth birthday.

On October 17, 1964, Brother Clifton Sullivan resigned as church treasurer and Brother Will Sullivan was elected as his replacement. Our church clerk, Brother Quinton Hare, offered his resignation effective October 1965, being replaced by Brother William Dale.

The Deacons recommended that the church contribute \$25.00 to the Belfast Boy Scout Troop No. 18; also that the church set up a utility fund of \$180.00 per year to pay the Parsonage electricity bill. The church asked for a Deacon Training Program for our future ordained Deacons and that they serve one year of training and if they prove qualified at this time then they may be ordained. The following men were appointed for this training program- Brothers Lee Kornegay, William Dale, Delbert Scott, Jimmie Grantham and David Summerlin.

Brother Edward Wooten and wife asked permission to furnish the nursery with the approval of the Building Committee.

On October 10, 1965, we held our first service of praise and thanksgiving in our new sanctuary.

On October 16, 1965, at our quarterly business meeting a motion was passed for the building committee to have stoops built over the two side doors and to complete the basement and to cover the floors with Torginal floor covering at a cost of \$2,100.00.

On April 16, 1966, Pastor Joseph Ingram and Brother Edward Wooten were appointed to have the grounds landscaped around the new sanctuary by planning walks and driveways.

A called business meeting was held May 22, 1966, to make a decision in regards to air conditioning our new sanctuary. It was stated that the compressor to complete the job could be installed for \$2,500.00. A motion was carried-- 53 for and 15 against.

On September 16, 1966, a Report of Deacons asked that we have our quarterly meeting on the first Saturday nights in January, April, July and October instead of the third Saturday night of each of these months. Also, they submitted a budget for our church for the year 1966-1967 of \$15, 770.00.

Bro. William Dail asked to be relieved of the duties of church clerk October 12, 1966, due to his having accepted Pastorate of Spring Hill Free Will Baptist Church west of Goldsboro on Hwy 70. Also, we heard a progress report on the driveways, stating that a contractor would do the job for approximately \$800.00 (grading, paving, etc.).

Arrangements were made to rent an organ on trial for the rest of October and November at no cost. At a call meeting November 27, 1966, a vote was taken and passed to purchase the organ for \$2,500.00. The final payment was made April 1, 1967. A committee of Sisters Lillie Mae Sasser, Ladell Pate, and Brother Edward Wooten made the decision on the location of the sound boxes for the organs.

After getting settled in our new sanctuary and progress was being made, Rev. Joseph Ingram, our pastor, resigned in May 1967, to serve our denomination and propagate the gospel through missions, becoming Director-Treasurer of the North Carolina State Mission Board.

At the regular quarterly meeting July 1, 1969, at the request of the Laymen's League a motion was made and passed for marked parking spaces to be reserved for our elderly and handicapped citizens to park near the church entrance. Bro. Denver Mitchell in a report from the Board of Trustees recommended that the cemetery be surveyed and a copy of the plots be made showing the owner of each lot. A copy of said plot is to be recorded in the Register of Deeds office in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and a copy is to be kept at the church. The cost of the survey is not to exceed \$300.00 and each owner is to be assessed \$5.00 per grave to cover the cost. All excess funds to be put in a trust fund for the upkeep of the cemetery, and each owner would be given a deed for a fee of \$10.00.

Sister Lillie Mae Sasser asked permission to have draw drapes of wine colored velvet hung in front of the Baptistry.

Rev. Raymond Jones of Durham, North Carolina, was secured as our pastor July 23, 1967. Many outstanding accomplishments were made during his pastorate. The steeple for the new Sanctuary that was left off when the rest of the building was built, from lack of funds at the time, was added completing the building program. Interest through the church grew, after the Young Couples' Sunday School Class started making pledges. On April 5, 1969, at our business meeting a report was made concerning the findings of the maintenance committee. An aluminum steeple made according to the original blue prints could be purchased for \$4,395.00. They placed an order and the steeple was erected May 3, 1969, finishing the church with an unpaid balance on the new church sanctuary of \$40,427.81.

Bro. David Summerlin made a request on October 7, 1967, that the Boy Scouts be allowed the use of a Sunday School class room for their meetings, request was granted.

On January 6, 1968, Pastor Jones reported that Bro. Foy Futrell had passed his ordination test and was recommended to become a licensed minister. A motion was properly made and seconded that Bro. Futrell be licensed.

Bro. Edward Wooten made a motion that all the organizations in the church use the same calendar year. Starting in July going through June of the next year and on the Sundays that the Sunday School gives their collection to the Children's Home and Mount Olive College, that the church also give theirs. Motions carried.

Bro. David Summerlin sent his resignation from the duties of church clerk effective July 19, 1969. Bro. Quinton Hare was then made church clerk with a choice of his assistant.

Bro. Denver Mitchell asked that Sisters Elizabeth Scott, Jackie Flowers and Alma Dail work out a social and recreational program for the youth of our church and to consider means of transportation.

Rev. Raymond Jones resigned as Pastor as of July 23, 1969, to go back to his former pastorate at Durham, N.C.

On October 4, 1969, Bro. Frank Flowers was elected church clerk.

Rev. Robert Mae of Ahoskie, North Carolina, accepted the call to be our pastor and began his pastorate October 23, 1969, but on November 23, 1969, he read his letter of resignation asking the church to release him of his obligations as pastor. He stated with regrets that he was unable to adjust to the pastorate at Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church. Although disappointed, we were fortunate to secure Rev. David Charles Hansley with recommendation of our Deacon Board to be our pastor starting December 7, 1969. Some of the outstanding accomplishments that were made through his guidance were-- The church voted to adopt the unified church budget system. Robes and pins were obtained for the youth choir and carpet was put in the nursery. Two young men, Brothers Raymond C. Gray, Jr. and Frank Flowers were given licenses to preach the gospel of Christ. A benevolence committee was appointed to look into the needs of the sick and shut-ins of our church.

An amusement bus for the church was purchased by an appointed committee. Chairman Brother George Williams with Brothers Delbert Scott, John Milton Jones, and Benjamin Lancaster to serve with him, the price not to exceed \$1,500.00 of church money. (A) An up-keep and maintenance committee for the bus was appointed giving authority to use church funds up to \$150.00 per quarter without church approval. (B) The church be responsible for the gas bill when the bus was being used for the youth of the church, but all adult groups will take that responsibility when being used for them. (C) No one under age 18 be permitted to drive the bus when loaded. (D) The bus to be used by church groups, this includes, Sunday School, Youth Work, Ladies' Auxiliary, and Layman's League. (E) If some other church in the community wants to use the bus, the bus committee will make that decision.



Deacon Board recommendations: 1- That the church accept action of the Sunday School insofar as election of officers and teachers for the coming year. 2- That Bro. Delbert Scott be relieved from the position as the one person being responsible for depositing the church collection by his request. 3- That Bro. Preston Holland be appointed as one of the persons responsible for depositing of the church collection. 4- That the benevolence committee that was appointed in January of this year: Chairman Bro. John Milton Jones, Members serving with him, Brothers Jimmy Grantham, Herbert Pate, and Delbert Scott be retained to serve should the need arise, and report back to the church their findings and recommendations as to what further action the church should take.

Bro. Frank Flowers was asked to look into the possibility of placing speakers on some of the pews for the hard of hearing.

A motion was made and passed that if any committee or individual or church related function has business that cannot wait until the next scheduled quarterly meeting, they can contact the Pastor and Deacon Board, and if they agree that it's necessary they can call a business meeting if it can be announced a minimum of one service prior to the call meeting.

On January 3, 1970, First, the Deacon Board recommended that night services begin at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM. Second, that ten dollars per week for the rest of the year go to Cragmont for the purpose of building a new cottage only. Third, that the maintenance committee install a well as required for water supply. These recommendations were accepted.

On April 11, 1970, Rev. Hansley read rules for proper business proceedings on page 57 of the Statement of Faith and Discipline for the Original Free Will Baptists.

A copy of the treasurer's report was passed out to each member present. A motion was made, seconded and voted to accept this method instead of the treasurer reading his report.

Bro. Herbert Pate was asked to do the outside painting on the buildings that are in need of repainting.

Sister Lucille Lancaster gave us some information concerning the Free Will Baptist Fellowship at Greenville, North Carolina. She stated that the home was for Free Will Baptist girl students at East Carolina University and they needed help to pay for this home. After some discussion at the next business meeting of July 1, 1970, a motion was made by Bro. Edward Wooten and it was passed to send the home \$100.00.

Brother Jimmy Grantham was elected chairman of the grass cutting committee and was to make a list involving as many men and boys as needed to cut the church lawn, banks, and graveyard. After this, the church decided to relieve the Sunday School of its responsibility of maintaining it.

There was some discussion concerning the Ladies' Quartet and the Pastor's trip to Knoxville, Tennessee. A motion was made by Sister Elizabeth Scott that the church take care of the expenses. This Quartet was made up of Sisters Alma Dail, Ida Lee Wooten, Mary Lou Howell, Bobbie Holland and Lillie Mae Sasser as pianist. They were asked to be on the program at the convention of the General Association of General Baptist. This group shared a common doctrinal heritage and were developed out of the same background as the Original Free Will Baptist and have sent delegates to this annual meeting since its beginning in 1968, when representatives of both denominations met in Knoxville, Tennessee, where they agreed to form a fellowship between the two groups. Since groups were small in size, they agreed for their ministers to be allowed to move from one to the other without surrendering their credentials. Working relationship between the boards of enterprises of the two bodies was encouraged by the convention.

Deacons report: (1) That Bro. Delbert Scott be removed from the maintenance committee and Brothers Dennis Wheeler and Milton Futrell be added to that committee, (2) That Ray Sullivan be removed from the board of trustees. These recommendations were accepted. Brother Frank Flowers resigned as church clerk, due to added responsibilities with the Sunday School. Sister Mary Kennedy was elected by the Board of Deacons as his replacement.

A motion was made and seconded that Sister Maxine Futrell be named as assistant pianist.

On September 30, 1970, Deacon Board recommendations: The goal for homecoming offering October 18, 1970, to be set at \$12,000.00. That Brother Delbert Scott be elected assistant treasurer and Brother Dennis Wheeler be elected as helper to assist in the counting and depositing of church funds. That this church go on record opposing the signing of the "Civil Rights Act" by the Children's Home, and that our pastor appoint three delegates to attend the special called session of the North Carolina State Convention to be held November 9, 1970, at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Wilson, and that we instruct these delegates to vote against our Children's Home signing said "Civil Rights Act." Rev. Hansley then appointed Brothers John M. Jones, Delbert Scott, and George Williams as delegates.

Our church made a rule on March 14, 1971, that anyone who comes to our church, regardless of race, to invite trouble be removed from the church by proper authorities. These circumstances are to be determined by the Pastor and Deacon Board.

On January 31, 1971, a motion was made and passed that the church reimburse the men who gave \$300.00 for the brace for Brother Freddie Hare, and also to express thanks to these men.

On March 14, 1971, a motion was passed by the church that they accept the donation of \$50.00 per month from the anonymous giver to be used for youth work only--decision to be made by the pastor how this money will be used.

On May 2, 1971, a motion was made and passed that the young people of this church be permitted and encouraged in their efforts to begin a youth church service under the supervision of the main church on Sunday nights only beginning on July 1, 1971, in the old church; there were 55 for and 2 in opposition. The following committee was appointed to make plans for the youth services. The Senior Class Sunday School teacher- George Williams; The Young Adult Sunday School Class- Stan Matthews; The Youth Auxiliary Director- Annette Futrell; The Youth Choir Director- Jackie Flowers and that Dennis Crumpler and three other young people serve with him.

Also on May 2, 1971, Bro. Lee Kornegay gave the following recommendation from the Deacon Board- that a pulpit committee appointed by the church to include one person from the Laymen's League, one Superintendent of the Sunday School, the Youth Auxiliary Director, the Ladies' Auxiliary, and one person from the Deacon Board. The following persons were to serve: Bro. Denver Mitchell- Laymen's League, Bro. Ben Casey- Sunday School Supt., Sister Annette Futrell- Youth Director, Sister Eva Lancaster- Ladies' Auxiliary, and Bro. Edward Wooten- Deacon Board.

David Charles Hansley resigned by letter July 1, 1971.

On August 16, 1971, those serving on the pulpit committee saw our needs and after much prayer the Lord directed them in the right direction, when they secured Rev. Fred Rivenbark as our pastor. Mount Olive College selected Rev. Rivenbark to assist in the Pastoral Supervision of a ministerial student. Bro. Gary Bailey of Bear Grass, North Carolina, was recommended and was accepted by our church. He proved to be a real blessing working with our youth and in all phases of activities including regular visitation with our pastor. We first hired Bailey on a trial period for one quarter, at a maximum of ten dollars per week the last of September. On January 5, 1972, at our business meeting we voted to continue to employ Gary Bailey as our associate pastor.

Rev. Rivenbark's daughter and son-in-law were given permission to buy rails for the front steps of the church. The Loyalty Sunday School Class was given permission to buy two pulpit chairs like the other two already there.

Around the year of 1972, the Sincere Sunday School Class that was taught by Pluma Sullivan bought the material and built the picnic shelter on the west side of the church grounds. Some of the members doing most of the work were Bill Wiggs, Ben Casey, Thedie Gardner, Paul Anderson and Jimmy Grantham. Some of their wives were helpmates. Bro. Herbert Pate was their supervisor.

The year of 1972 was an eventful time as far as church activities were concerned. The Deacon Board reported at our quarterly meeting that Pastor Rivenbark had been compensated for his car expenses. With an increase in membership, there was a need for more basins and towels. These were purchased to bring the total to 40 of each item and will be used during the Saints' Foot Washing Service during Communion. A spring revival was held four nights in May with a different speaker each night. They were Reverends James Joyner, Walter Reynolds, Dewey Boling and R. W. Almon. Bro. Frank Flowers was recommended to the Ordination Council to be examined for ordination into the Ministry. At this time the church agreed to give the gift of a Bible to any man from our church who is ordained into the Ministry.

The Layman's League asked the church to buy two additional tape recorders to use for outreach to our shut-ins. We were informed that any member of Stoney Creek Church could participate in the Mount Olive College matching scholarship program by donating the sum of \$125 through the church each semester of the college year for any student that they may designate.

In exchange for the cost of the speakers that were installed in the pews, the church was asked to pay the entrance fee of \$70 for the church softball team to play with the Saulston Church League.

A motion was made and seconded to install central air conditioning in the parsonage.

The Deacon Board's \$50 allowance was increased to \$100 per quarter and the Benevolence Committee was allowed to spend \$100 on their own and an additional \$100 allotted if necessary. The treasurer was authorized to buy a first aid kit to be placed in the nursery.

We voted to take Stanley Slaughter under the supervised work program of Mount Olive College to work under our Pastor's supervision for one semester and we pay him \$25 per month. In January of 1973, Slaughter was asked to remain for the coming semester as the Pastor's Assistant. Rev. Joseph Ingram recommended David Jones to the Ordination Council for a license to preach and that the church accept Jones as an Assistant to our Pastor also, and to pay him \$25 per month.

The Deacon Board suggested that our Pastor be granted an additional week of vacation effective this year.

The church bought enough stainless steel flatware to set a dinner table for 100 people to use in the educational building.

Our Pastor read a letter of resignation from Bro. Haywood Kennedy from the Board of Deacons.

The church was asked to pay the entrance fee for the 1973 season of softball, which was approximately \$85, and that the team be under the supervision of Frank Flowers, Tommy Mitchell and Preston Holland.

Edward Wooten made a motion that was passed for the church to purchase new song books for the Adult Mixed Choir. Will Sullivan, the treasurer, requested that anyone who purchases things used by the church to please get a bill of sales so he can apply for a sales tax refund.

In the spring of 1974, a motion was made and carried that the entire educational building be updated with new drapes, carpet, paint and air conditioning. Later a report by Jimmy Grantham was given on the cost of the work done for having commercial carpet installed in the Sunday School classrooms at the cost of \$490.00. Professional cleaning of the assembly hall, kitchen and both rooms was a cost of \$75.00.

After the needs for a solution to provide better facilities for the Junior and Intermediate Sunday School Department was brought to our attention, Pastor Rivenbark appointed Paula Sullivan to serve with the following committee appointed from the floor: Delbert Scott, Johnny Futrell, Jackie Flowers and Peggy Ingram. Later Oliver Smith was elected to serve on this committee after Peggy Ingram resigned.

Bro. Jeff Scarborough asked the church to recommend him to the ordination council for license to preach the gospel.

On October 9, 1974, Lillie Mae Sasser asked the church to deed back the lot across the road known as the old gin lot. She deeded this property to the church in 1953. It was stipulated in the former deed that the property would revert back to her if it was not used for church purposes. The property was deeded back to her by the church.

A motion was passed that the church have a ramp built beside the steps at the walkway. A steel ramp was ordered and installed for wheel chairs and people that are unable to walk up the steps of the new sanctuary.

Delbert Scott gave a report of the committee for the renovating of the old church for the use of the Junior Sunday School department as follows:

1. Replace present roof with a shingle roof of the same quality and color to match the new sanctuary.
2. Raise the floor level in old sanctuary to that of the adjacent Sunday School Classrooms and cover with appropriate floor covering. Also, install central heat and air conditioning in the entire building.
3. Lower the ceiling in the old sanctuary and replace lighting with recessed lighting
4. Utilize two of the rear Sunday School rooms for restrooms with outside entrances.
5. Remove vestibule, but retain present entrance.
6. Make necessary repairs to upstairs Sunday School rooms.
7. That the building be maintained the same as the new sanctuary and educational building.

A motion was made and seconded to accept these recommendations. After discussion, a motion was made to table the original motion to give time to get a figure on this renovation from a contractor and possibly have a called meeting for this purpose.

Elliott Futrell was recommended to be elected to the Board of Trustees and Jimmy Grantham resigned as chairman of the grass cutting committee. Haywood Kennedy was elected to replace him.

Dennis Wheeler asked that we discontinue having a joint Sunday School service on fifth Sunday in the sanctuary because of too much confusion.

Rev. Fred Rivenbark read a letter of resignation as Pastor of the church stating his plans were to enter into semi-retirement on March 17, 1975. Bro. Edward Wooten made a motion that we have a called business meeting one week from this Sunday night to appoint a pulpit committee.

On April 1, 1975, a report from the committee on the renovating of the old church building was given with a detailed report and an estimate on cost from Mr. Malcolm Gurley, contractor, and was accepted. Then a motion was passed for the project to proceed as planned and the same committee that made the plans to serve as overseers.



Denver Mitchell reported for the pulpit committee by reading a letter from Rev. Clarence Bowen accepting the call to Stoney Creek Church as their pastor. Usually when a family moves out of the parsonage, it is a good time to update the maintenance before the next one moves in. Pastor Bowen was asked to help choose colors for painting and selecting carpet to be installed with the help of a committee consisting of Dixie Smith, Lillie Mae Sasser and Herbert Pate. The maintenance committee was authorized to install vanities in the bathrooms and to make other necessary repairs as needed. The church took care of the expenses of the moving of Pastor Bowen by a commercial mover.

On April 2, 1975, upon the request of the Deacon Board, Ray Sullivan, Peggy Ingram and Jackie Flowers were asked to serve on the committee with Pastor Bowen to purchase a duplicating machine for the church.

Since carpet had been installed in the educational building the salary of the housekeepers was increased \$5.00 per week making a recommended salary of \$30.00 per week.

Jeff Scarborough asked for a recommendation from the church to the Western Conference Ordination Council, that he be examined on or before July 3, 1975, for ordination into the ministry. Dessie Kennedy and daughter, Gail, were serving as housekeepers at this time.

In July, the Laymen's League recommended that the church authorize the League to develop the recently purchased church property into a recreational area with special emphasis on various types of recreational equipment (basketball, volley ball, bad minton, softball, merry-go-rounds, slides, swings, etc.) The approximate estimated cost of \$1,200.00 is to be raised and funded by the Layman's League.

A motion was made by Oliver Smith that the church should go ahead and exercise the option on Lot No. 1 in Stoney Run Manor as soon as possible. Motion carried.

At the business meeting of October 1, 1975, the building committee gave their report and Delbert Scott made a motion that the church buy 200 metal folding chairs and carts to accommodate these chairs to use in the newly remodeled building. The Maintenance Committee was authorized to replace the oven and surface unit in the parsonage.

Due to the fact that in the past there had been no set rules concerning borrowing of church equipment, the Board of Deacons made the following recommendation: All persons wishing to borrow church equipment will contact the pastor and upon borrowing of church equipment will be required to sign a form with equipment listed. This equipment is to be used only for church and Sunday School related functions. The purpose of the signed form is so all equipment can be accounted for at all times.

January 7, 1976. The Board of Trustees reported that the church now has a deed for the lot next to the church and owns the house on the lot. The church gave the Board of Trustees the responsibility of getting the house removed from the lot.

Stoney Creek Church has always been blessed to have spiritual guided leadership, whether appointed or volunteered. We are thankful for the way they have strived to keep unity and love for each other with a main concern on seeing the sinner come to Christ. They had always gone about electing their officers in a manner to please, and it worked even though we had been told by some of our previous pastors that our system was not the proper way. So, at the January business meeting, the Board of Deacons asked the church to receive some new resolutions concerning the general nominating committee, giving a more organized system.

#### Resolution

Whereas the present method of selecting and approving church officers and standing committees has served a need and fulfilled a purpose, and whereas there is a present need for a more extensive and effective method of selecting said officers and committees which will also embrace all other officers and positions throughout the church organization including its several auxiliaries.



Be It Resolved:

1. That we hereby rescind the previous motion which established the present system of selecting and approving officers and committees and
2. That we establish a general Nominating Committee consisting of nine (9) members as follows: (1) The superintendent of the Sunday School (2) The president of the Woman's Auxiliary (3) The President of the Layman's League (4) The Chairman of the Board of Deacons and one additional member from each of the above four agencies of the church making a total of eight (8). The pastor as ex officio will make the ninth (9) member and
3. That this committee be authorized to nominate all church officers, standing church committees, Sunday School general officers, Sunday School departmental officers, and Sunday School teachers and their assistants,
4. That the Woman's Auxiliary and the Layman's League be permitted to select their own officers and youth leaders and personnel to be presented to the General Nominating Committee for approval and inclusion in its report to the church, and
5. That the report of the General Nominating Committee be submitted at each annual conference of the church for final approval and/or revision.

Done by Recommendation of the Board of Deacons in session

December 30, 1975.

A motion to raise the custodian's salary from \$45 to \$60 per quarter was passed.

January 25, 1976. At a called meeting the Church passed a motion 73 for and 13 against to advise the Board of Trustees of Cragmont to build a new main building instead of renovating the old one. Another motion was passed to give our old unneeded church furniture: pews, Communion table, etc. to the Mission station in Texas.

April 7, 1976. At a regular business meeting, Denver Mitchell announced that effective tonight that the Laymen's league be dissolved and that the various functions be turned over to the Deacon Board for disposition, except the Men's Prayer Breakfast and Male Chorus. Benjamin Lancaster and Denver Mitchell were asked by the Deacon Board if they would be responsible in taking care of the tape ministry until other plans were devolved.

The Deacon Board recommended that the Church send \$300.00 to Cragmont to be applied to the construction of the new building.

A committee of Ladell Pate, Lillie Mae Sasser, Fern Williams, Ida Lee Wooten and Benjamin Lancaster were appointed to look into getting new speakers for the organ and getting a new piano for the Sanctuary.

At our regular business meeting in June, Thomas Pridgen was added to the Usher Board. The proposed budget for 1976-1977 was approved being \$45,970.00 with an average of \$884.04 weekly offering.

The Organ Committee recommended a PA system at a cost of \$3,941.40.

Sunday night services for July 4, 1976, were called off giving the congregation a chance to attend the Community Bicentennial Services at Charles B. Aycock High School, where our Chancel Choir and Male Chorus were participating.

Edward Wooten offered his resignation from the Board of Deacons with a motion being made to accept his request and a standing ovation for his 20 years of faithful service and leadership as a Deacon.

September 29, 1976. At the regular quarterly meeting of Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. Charles F. Bowen Pastor.

I. Deacon Board gave the following recommendations:

1. That Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church establish a system of rotation of Deacons, said system to be set up immediately with deacons serving a term of five years.
2. That two deacons be rotated off the Board each year and to be replaced by new deacons or by deacons having formerly served on the Board.
3. The first two deacons to rotate off the Board at the end of the present church year be the two having served the longest, the next two the next longest term etc. meaning that the most recently elected deacons would serve five years before rotating off.
4. That in being rotated off the board, a deacon must remain off for one year after which he may be re-elected or another put in his place.
5. That in case of the death of a deacon, the Church may choose one to fill his unexpired term.
6. That this resolution does not prohibit any deacon from resigning his position at any time, in which case the Church may fill his unexpired term.

- II.
1. That quarterly Church conference be held on Wednesday nights following the last Sunday in the months of March, June, September and December, rather than as heretofore on the first Wednesday nights in the months of April, July, October and January.
  2. That we hold to this new schedule except when necessity may call for an occasional change, such changes to be duly announced in advance.
  3. That the Church may continue to hold special called sessions at its discretion when properly announced in advance and the reasons given for their being held.
  4. That Holy Communion may continue to be held on Sunday nights following each quarterly conference except in instances when it is necessary to change the time of these services.

III. That Arnold Jones be ordained and placed on the Active Board of Deacons.

IV. That Delbert Scott, a former active deacon, be placed back on the active board.

V. That Henry Sasser be placed on the training Board of Deacons.

VI. That the old piano in the Educational Building be sold by sealed bids to be turned in by 4 o'clock on Homecoming Day. All bids to be at least \$50.00. The Board accepted a bid of \$100.00 for the piano from Ken Adams.

A committee was appointed to buy playground equipment for the recreational grounds--Thedie Gardner, Kenneth Adams, Benjamin Lancaster, Vivian Adams and Elizabeth Scott. They recommended that all money that had been turned in for the recreation grounds be added to the allotted amount in the budget and that all future funds be handled in the same manner.

At a called meeting October 27, 1976. Recommended by the Board of Deacons that inasmuch as Fern Williams offered her resignation as assistant organist as of October 11, 1976, we recommend that the church accept it.

Due to the review on the position, purpose and privilege of church musicians and choral leaders of Stoney Creek Church Free Will Baptist Church, the Board of Deacons accepted the position in its entirety as presented by the Pastor and Board of Deacons' chairman and recommended that upon the request of any church musician, the Board of Deacons will meet and attempt to clarify any confusion that may exist.

December 29, 1976. The Board of Deacons recommended:

1. That the church members and any member's child may use the church organ or piano for training purpose under the supervision of and/or direction of church organist or pianist. Motion accepted.
2. That the church accept the resignation of Lillie Mae Sasser from her job as church pianist, adult and Sunday School Department pianist and as Church Deaconess effective December 30, 1976. Motion accepted.

3. Mildred Sullivan was elected Church Deaconess as her replacement.  
As a church grows, so does it needs. Through the devoted leadership of our Pastor, we saw many improvements.  
On March 20, 1977, our Deacon Board recommended:
  1. That we put lights on the roof of the new church to light up the steeple.
  2. That the church buy a new electric typewriter being our first.
  3. That we have a four (4) foot chain link fence installed from the road to the back of the church property we had just acquired.
  4. That the church leaders in the Music department and the Pastor serve as a committee to purchase hymn books to satisfy our needs.
  5. That we pay our revival speaker \$200.00 plus travel expenses.
  6. That we buy five teacher's desks for the Sunday School rooms in the educational building.
  7. That we replace the roof on the educational building and parsonage.
  8. After a request by Dennis Wheeler, heat and air ducts in each of the Sunday School rooms in the basement were installed.

June 19, 1977. Henry Sasser was ordained and put on the Deacon Board and Thomas Pridgen, Thedie Gardner and Kenneth Adams were put on the Deacon Training Board. A rising vote of appreciation was given Gordon Mazingo and Jimmy Grantham who were rotating off the Deacon Board. Ladell Pate resigned as the Male Chorus Director in August. In September, Rev. C. F. Bowen, our Pastor, took her place.

After we had settled in the new sanctuary and the congregation had changed their way of entering the church yard and parking habits, the shade of the old oak tree sort of lost its attraction. It was still an old landmark and like a precious member of the church, and we had regrets when it was struck by lightning and had to be cut down leaving only memories.

Since Rev. Bowen had been pastor of our church while he was young in the ministry with a great ability to work with teenagers and young adults, we learned to admire and appreciate his leadership and recognition shown in this same category as an older pastor.

During the past three (3) years that he has been our pastor, we have seen an increasing interest and dedication as well as a growth in membership of our youth department.

#### Resolution of Merit:

WHEREAS, the congregation of Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church recognizes the worth of our many young people and stands ready at all times to applaud their worthy achievements; and

WHEREAS, Miss Kelly Grantham, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Grantham, and a faithful member of our church, has recently been honored by being named Queen of the 1977 Wayne County Agricultural Fair, which honor we feel she justly deserves;

#### BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

1. That the congregation give to Miss Grantham a rising vote of recognition and appreciation for this outstanding honor conferred upon her; and,
2. Be it resolved that a copy of this resolution be placed in the minutes of this session of our church conference, and in the minutes of the Board of Deacons, and that a copy be presented to her; and,
3. Be it further resolved that a proper notice of this honor to her be placed in our denominational paper along with her picture.

Done by recommendation of the Board of Deacons

Delbert Scott, Board Chairman; Dennis Wheeler, Secretary; C. F. Bowen, Pastor; Linda

Anderson, Clerk

Beginning March 27, 1978. Rev. Norman Ard held our Spring Revival and Dr. William L. Bennett of Fort Smith, Arkansas, was approved to hold our revival the next year starting May 7<sup>th</sup> going through May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1979.

At a called meeting of the church May 7, 1978, Rev. Clarence Bowen resigned as our Pastor effective the first Sunday in August. There was no way we could express our love and appreciation for his leadership and understanding as our Pastor, so the Board of Deacons asked that we take a love offering as a token for his services at Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church and the Free Will Baptist denomination. Also, a motion was made and passed to pay Rev. Bowen his remaining salary out of the Miscellaneous Church Expenses.

April 16, 1978. Recommendation of the Board of Deacons: Due to the size of the additional acreage the church had purchased for parking space, starting at the road between the chain link fence and the cemetery and since most of the grass cutting committee did not own riding lawn mowers, they felt it necessary to hire Mr. John Wooten to prepare this area with his bush hog and large mower for \$25.00 each month or each time it needed mowing.

Then at a call meeting of the Church on Wednesday night, May 17, 1978, a motion was made to rescind the motion made at the previous meeting concerning the mowing of the additional acreage of grass. The Board of Deacons had decided to let Leslie Aycock and wife mow the grass and keep that area since they were members of the church. This was to be done at the same cost of \$25.00 per month or per cutting.

The Board of Deacons recommended at our regular quarterly meeting held June 27, 1978, that the church dispose of the activity bus and that we have a rising vote of thanks and appreciation to Rev. C. F. Bowen for his leadership and understanding as our Pastor. The general nominating committee suggested that a new Sunday School class be organized for the young married couples which was later known as "The Young Believers." On June 30, 1978, the church voted to buy a non-profit mailing permit.

As of July 30, 1978, Rev. Bobby Bazen accepted the call to serve the church as our Pastor bringing new ideas and proposals. His salary was \$10,400.00 with \$4,940.00 traveling and living expenses or a total of \$15,400.00.

The Church assumed Rev. Bazen's moving expenses and voted to put new drapes in the parsonage where they were needed and to buy a new washer and dryer.

January 3, 1979. The Church clerk reported 390 members on the church roll and the Sunday School report given by Gordon Mozingo with 303 members on roll with 206 for the average attendance. We had 44 visitors this quarter and the average offering per Sunday was \$105.36.

The new year of 1979 began with making provisions for handicapped parking near the sanctuary entrance.

The Board of Deacons recommended that the use of all church property and facilities for weddings, showers, parties, sings or any activities and special programs have prior approval of the Pastor, and the Pastor is to have seven days to reply to the request.

The Church voted to support the bowling team.

At this time the Church voted to provide another driveway at the Northeast corner of the Church ground off the Stoney Creek Church Road.

A committee was named being Johnny Futrell, chairman, Dixie Smith and Lou Grantham to investigate and report back to the Church concerning installing cushions on the pews in the Church sanctuary.

The Board of Deacons recommended the Church to sponsor a Men's and Women's softball team and provide \$300 to cover entry fees (\$150 per team), softballs and needed equipment.

Another recommendation from the Board of Deacons May 2, 1979, was that the Church release Rev. Bobby Bazen from his duties as our Pastor at the close of the evening service on Sunday night, July 1, 1979, at his request. Also, that he be paid for vacation time July 2 - July 15. These recommendations were accepted and the Board of Deacons was asked to serve as the Pulpit Committee.

As usual, the members of the Church rallied back in sincere prayer to this situation and direct guidance for our Board of Deacons. On May 20, 1979, we received an answer to our prayers. At a called meeting, the Pulpit Committee recommended that we accept the Rev. Gary Bailey as our new Pastor with duties to begin on second Sunday in July 1979 with a salary of \$10,400 and \$4,940 travel expense for a total of \$15,340 per year. The Church would pay one-half of his Social Security and the other half would be paid by Mr. Bailey. I have always been amazed at the way the Lord has of repaying one good deed with an abundance of blessings. When Gary Bailey, a youngster just out of High School, first came to our Church on September 29, 1971, as a ministerial student under a training program of Mount Olive College and under the supervision of our Pastor, Rev. Fred Rivenbark, we never dreamed he would be coming back and serving us as a loving, dedicated Pastor for over 22 years with the highest capacity of his ability. And, we are so grateful. We feel it has been a great pleasure to him as it has been to us to see and know the "Lord" has blessed our Church in growth and in the saving knowledge of the "Lord, Jesus Christ" through his unselfish leadership.

The Vernon Equipment Co. of High Point was hired to put the cushions on the pews in the sanctuary including three pews in the choir loft for \$3,000.

August 5, 1979. The Ambassador Sunday School Class asked permission to landscape the area between the old and new sanctuaries. The Seegar Fence Co. of Rocky Mount was hired to fence part of the parsonage yard to accommodate our Pastor's young children. The cost was between \$800 and \$900.

Rev. O. B. Jones consented to serve as the speaker for our fall revival the week of November 12 - 16, 1979.

A motion was made to enter into a called meeting of the Church on Sunday night, November 11, 1979, at 7:30 PM to hear the report of the committee investigating our tape ministry needs. The committee recommended the church purchase the following equipment:

1. One professional cassette recorder - cost approximately \$105
2. One cassette tape copier to copy a one hour cassette in approximately 3 to 4 minutes. Cost approximately \$605
3. Six cassette tape players - cost each \$25 for a total of \$150
4. Total cost of recommendation \$860

This does not include the labor necessary for the work already done. Money on hand to be used is as follows:

1. Glennie Sasser Fund \$250
2. Libby Jones Fund \$370
3. Total of funds \$620 leaving a balance owed of \$240.

As the church grew in membership, so did the demand of the tape ministry which has proved to be such a blessing to shut-ins, by bringing some of the activities of the Church right into their homes and sick rooms. This keeps their interest still alive it being the next thing to being there in person. They also look forward to that visit from the faithful members who pick up the tapes each week and take them to the patients.



For the past few years we have had a nominating committee to elect the basic church officers and Sunday School teachers. Before the new church year begins in July, a report from this committee on the officers and a proposed budget is given to each member for approval, giving a chance to make necessary changes. So far, we have been happy with the results that have been accepted with a Christian attitude of thankfulness.

At a called business meeting March 18, 1980. The Board of Deacons recommended that we purchase an Electrolux Heavy Duty Commercial Vacuum Cleaner for \$434 to help our housekeepers.

The Church was still sponsoring the Men and Women's Softball Teams by giving them \$500 for entry fees and equipment in the Spring of 1980. In the fall, a bowling team from within the Church was sanctioned giving them permission to allow one person from outside the Church permission to play on the team if there was not enough participation among our members. The Ambassador Sunday School Class was given permission to put a trophy case in the basement to hold our athletic sports trophies that had been won through the years.

The funds that were given in memory of Herbert Pate were used to purchase the Christian and American flags to be placed in the sanctuary with the Men's Prayer Breakfast Group making up the difference in cost.

The Sincere Sunday School Class bought Bibles and put two on each pew in the sanctuary.

The Church paid Teachey Construction Co. \$540.06 for work done on the parsonage during the remodeling that was not covered under the original bid. The Board of Trustees was given permission to dispose of the excess church property after the renovation of the parsonage and any other church property that the church would not need in the future.

A heating element was installed in the church Baptistry for around \$250.00

At the January 7, 1981, business meeting the church voted to accept a proposal that our people would be informed of the work and needs of our six enterprises--Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Children's Home, Mount Olive College, Retirement Homes and Cragmont Assembly, and once each year that each of these enterprises would be featured in our worship services with a representative to speak if possible. The entire offering that day plus the special offering designated in the church budget would go to the enterprise of that day. These special services and offerings were to be as near to two months apart as possible and were to be publicized in advance and the pastor was to be responsible for setting the dates as well as planning the program and speaker.

The Church voted to secure once a week garbage pickup service and a love offering of \$300 be given to the Gideons to help them in their work of spreading the Gospel.

A proposal was made to replace the flood lights on the steeple and to add quartz lights to the front of the Church at an estimated cost of \$550 with the work to be done by Rudolph Tyndall, electrician. Gordon Mazingo informed the Church that the State road department had agreed to grade and landscape the hillside area in their right of way.

July 1, 1981. The Church voted to send the amount of \$2,000 per year for the next five years to Mount Olive College toward College Hall that is being built on the campus.

In October 1981. The Loyalty Sunday School Class was authorized to have a Church Picture Directory published to enable us to recognize and get to know one another better as a Christian family.

At this time the Church considered hiring someone to work with a Youth Church Committee in setting up and carrying out a Youth Program, and Betty Pate was nominated for membership at large on January 27, 1982. On April 18, 1982, at a properly called business meeting the church heard a motion to hire Mr. Tony Souder as a part-time Youth Minister for the period of May 9 - August 31, with an understanding that the Church would evaluate and decide whether to continue in the outlined youth program and the Church would adopt a proposed job description including salary agreements.

June 30, 1982. Mr. J. B. Lewis and Mr. Albert Whitfield were hired as church custodians after they had worked on a temporary basis fulfilling the duties of the Aycocks due to their present circumstances and the pay was to be \$35 as budgeted.

The amount given as a memorial to the Mount Olive College Library upon the death of any member of our church be increased to \$20.00.

The church voted to accept a Chimeatron system as a gift in memory of Bro. Oliver Smith given by his family and friends.

August 29, 1982. Office space was provided for Bro. Fred Baker, a missionary, while he was home on a furlough.

The Maintenance Committee recommended that we accept as a gift the construction of a concrete walkway that joined the two church buildings from Bro. Greg Nichols.

September 12, 1982. The Youth Church Committee asked that the church employ Miss Jeanie Brickhouse as a Youth Director with her salary to be \$185.00 monthly. That the church adopt guidelines for a Youth Church program to be approved by the Youth Director, Pastor and the Youth Church Committee.

At a called meeting held November 10, 1982, Spencer Scott reported that Barnes Construction Company had bid \$3,545.00 to resurface the existing driveways and pave an additional driveway. The Maintenance Committee was authorized to have the pastor's and visitors' parking spaces paved if the cost is reasonable. Area lights owned by the Church are to replace those we have been renting from Carolina Power and Light Company at a cost of \$650.00.

The Deacon Board recommended that a nursery be set up for the younger children during the Sunday School and Morning Worship Services, which was accepted.

1. Birth to One Year Old infants - Nursery in the Main Building
2. One and Two Year Old toddlers - Educational Building
3. Three and Four Year Old children - Educational Building

January 23, 1983. The Pastor announced the resignation of Jeannie Brickhouse as Youth Director at the regular business meeting.

At a called meeting February 20, 1983, Betty Pate recommended that we employ Mr. Steve Starnes as Youth Minister beginning March 1, 1987, under the guidelines of the attached job description and that he be paid \$85.00 weekly for 48 weeks annually, no salary for fifth Sundays.

At our regular business meeting on April 6, 1983, as old business the Pastor announced that the Rev. Harold Jones would be with us on May 25, for a discussion of the Foreign Mission program.

A motion was made to accept the Deacons' recommendation to allow the Red Cross to use the church facilities as shelter or operation point in case of disaster.

On July 6, 1983, the Church purchased two additional communion trays to add to our present set since our membership had increased.

The proposed church budget for the fiscal year of 1983-84 being \$84,265.00 was adopted. The minimum balance in the checking account be increased from \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00.

The Nominating Committee recommended that the Finance Committee go on a three-year rotation and for it to begin this year with one person coming off in 1984, one in 1985, and one in 1986. Each year from now on only one person will be elected to a three-year term.

The Ladies' Circle recommended that the Church begin electing the leaders of the various youth groups and to elect those nominated by the Circle to serve as youth leaders in 1984.

Cherubs: Kay Wells and Sandy Starnes	AFC's: Linda Anderson and Arlene Crumpler
Jr. YFA: Bobby and Jo Ann Pennington	Sr. YFA: Youth Minister and Pastor

January 4, 1984. Recommendation from the Board of Deacons that we purchase chairs for College Hall for the Pastor and delegates to the State Convention at \$50.00 each.

At the business meeting April 18, 1984, a motion tabled at our last meeting was re-read stating that members be required to attend at least one regularly scheduled business meeting of the four most recent regular business meetings of the Church to be eligible to vote in a business meeting. If some member has not attended any one of the last four regular meetings, he/she must attend one before being eligible to vote. The record of attendance to be kept by the Clerk and should be available at each meeting. An amendment was made stating this to be operated on the honor system unless a member calls for a roll call of eligible members. Original recommendation and amendment was voted on and carried.

The Planning Committee report was given by Chairman Delbert Scott recommending that we establish a building fund and set aside each fifth Sunday as Building Fund Sunday with all offerings going into the Building Fund.

Also approval was given to donate the air conditioner from the Old Church to the Cragmont Assembly.

We recommended that the three students from our church who are in good standing and are planning to attend Mount Olive College next year to be eligible for the grants of \$1,250.00 yearly (\$5,000.00 for four years) offered by the College.

The Trustees reported our insurance coverage had been revised after getting estimates on replacing the buildings if destroyed. Increase on the new Sanctuary from \$242,000.00 to \$500,000.00, the Old Church from \$93,000.00 to \$100,000.00 and parsonage from \$57,000.00 to \$65,000.00.

The Church decided to extend its support for Mount Olive College Hall for an extra five years at \$2,000.00 per year, if at all possible.

Much of the work of the Church must be carried on by various members as a voluntary service to the Lord requiring a great deal of work and dedication. The Church Treasurer is one office that consumes a lot of hours each week and Will Sullivan has faithfully served as Treasurer of Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church for the past 20 year (1964-1984), and has handled all the funds of the Church with the highest integrity. Therefore, be it resolved that the members of the church both individually and collectively give him our thanks and that we express those thanks in a rising vote of appreciation and that a suitable plaque of appreciation be presented to him in the Morning Worship Service and a copy of this resolution be submitted to the Free Will Baptist Press for publication.

George Williams reported he had talked to Effie Labrecque concerning the bloodmobile to be held at Stoney Creek Church on Saturday, July 21, 1984. She expressed appreciation for our support and asked for volunteers to help take blood pressure and to donate blood.

A called meeting August 15, 1984, was held after prayer meeting. The Nursery Committee gave the following recommendations: That nurseries be set up for three age groups--Birth to 12 Months, 12 - 24 Months, and 24 - 36 Months. The nurseries be relocated in the Old Church Building, that money be allocated to make the necessary changes and volunteers would continue to staff the nurseries.

A motion was passed October 11, 1984, to provide a meeting place for a Brownie Troop as requested by Mrs. Brenda Mitchell.

The Board of Deacons recommended that the Church join the United Church Ministries on January 9, 1985, with a contribution of \$1.00 per member. The Pastor had already given us information concerning the activities of the United Church Ministries in April 1984, with time for us to make a decision to help with their work.

April 10, 1985. Mrs. Essie Anderson was appointed to represent the Church on the United Church Ministries' Board.

The job description for a Minister of Education for our Church was adopted March 20, 1985, and a call was extended to Rev. Bass Mitchell to be our Youth Minister. His salary was to be \$200.00 weekly plus \$250.00 monthly for housing allowance (to live in our community) and that we pay ½ of the Social Security self-employment tax and to have two weeks paid vacation and be allowed to hold four revivals annually. He will also be allowed to continue working with the North Carolina State Sunday School Convention on a part-time basis. The Church will pay his moving expenses and that either he or the Church must give 90 days written notice or any other mutually agreed period for termination of his employment. The Youth Work Committee will remain active at least one year to assist the Minister of Education in determining and evaluating the needs of the youth.

A motion was made and carried that the Pastor be reimbursed for out of town trips that are not covered in the budget--to visit sick members in the hospital. Also, that the church pay for the Pastor's tuition fee of \$295.00 to attend an Evangelism School from April 26 to May 1, 1985, that will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Dr. Burkette Raper, President of Mount Olive College, asked our Pastor, Rev. Gary Bailey, to speak at the Baccalaureate Service the first Sunday night in May at 8 o'clock.

At our quarterly meeting July 10, 1985, the Sunday School Superintendent reported 309 on roll, 204 in average attendance, 17 new members and 16 members lost for the quarter.

The Minister of Education recommended that a council to oversee and administer our Sunday School program be appointed consisting of the General Superintendent, the Department Superintendents, the Assistant Department Superintendents, the General Secretary, one teacher representative from each department, one parent from the Primary and Junior Departments, the Pastor and Minister of Education. Their primary responsibilities:

1. To discover and address the needs and problems of the Sunday School.
2. To draft a statement of the purpose and objective of the Sunday School
3. To determine policies and set goals for the Sunday School
4. The primary objective of this council is to promote the overall growth and improvement of the Sunday School.

The Pastor recommended that the Church purchase a Canon Copier Model #NP155 at a cost of \$1,950.00 plus a one year service contract at a cost of \$360.00 which was tabled.

On July 31, 1985, at a called meeting the Church voted to purchase the Canon Copier to be used only for Church business.

The Deacon Board recommended that the Board be allowed to approve any fund raising project a minimum of six weeks in advance of the proposed date being effective January 1, 1986. That the Church recommended Larry Strickland for a Free Will Baptist Grant of \$1,500.00 at Mount Olive College for the 1985-86 academic year and that a book be sent to the Mount Olive Library in memory of Rev. William Dale.

On January 8, 1986, on a recommendation of the Trustees we voted to obtain insurance with the Church Mutual Insurance Company. This company will provide increased coverage for an annual premium of \$1,471, compared to \$2,717.00 premium for our old policy. On recommendation of the Board of Deacons, the Church recommended Leigh Culbreth for the Free Will Baptist Tuition Grant at Mount Olive College.

The purpose of a called meeting February 19, 1986 was to elect leaders for a Youth Choir. Elizabeth Scott and Leckie Scott were recommended as Youth Choir directors and were also placed on the Youth Committee. They resigned on July 9, 1986, because of other changes in youth work.



The Youth Work Committee report was given April 9, 1986, by Rev. Bass Mitchell with these recommendations:

1. For the following youth groups to be approved by the Church: Cherubs I (4 & 5 year old); Cherubs II (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades); AFC (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades); Jr. YFA (7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> grades) and Sr. YFA (10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades).
2. That leaders for these groups be elected in July and assume their responsibilities in September.
3. That a summer camp fund be established to provide financial assistance for any of our young people who attend summer camp at Cragmont. Monies for this fund to come from "Mother's and Father's Day Bulletins" and contributions from individuals or groups in the Church. This fund is to be equally divided among all our young people attending summer camp at Cragmont

Cliff Gray reported from the Sunday School Council that the Sunday School teachers and officers assume their responsibilities the first Sunday in September after being elected in July.

Larry Wells was elected as the Men's Softball coach and Lynn Lancaster and Jerry Mazingo as the Women's Softball coaches the 1986 season.

The Pastor stated that the area churches have banded together to fight liquor-by-the-drink issue. They feel it will require about \$20,000.00 total. A motion was made by Paul Sullivan and was carried to received an offering to help the cause after the Sunday morning services on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

January 7, 1987. Gordon Mazingo recommended from the Deacon Board that Regina Crumpler and Leslie Bailey receive the Free Will Baptist Grant to attend Mount Olive College. Then on April 15, 1987, the Board recommended that Kimberly West, Stephanie Lancaster and Jeff Sumrell receive the Free Will Baptist Grant at Mount Olive College as all these are members in good standing.

Judy Musgrave, speaking for the Ladies' Circle, asked for approval of the Church to landscape the grounds between the new and old church buildings.

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile was sponsored by the "Young Married" and "Koinonia" Sunday School classes at the Church on Saturday, July 11, 1987, from 7 to 1 o'clock. The quota was set for 75 pints of blood. Volunteers were asked to make sandwiches.

January 6, 1988. Even though they had a feeling of deep concern for the inactive members of the church, the Deacon Board felt that due to the length of time since those that were listed had actively attended church services, that these names be dropped from our roll since we do not have their addresses. Bill Wiggs suggested that we list the names in the church bulletin and if any information or addresses could be obtained that a contact be made before dropping the name.

Other business at this meeting was a request by Thomas Pridgen for the church to give about 25 of the old hymn books to Britthaven Rest Home. This request was granted.

A report given by Rev. Bass Mitchell at the quarterly business meeting on July 20, 1988, was that the spring quarter of Sunday School was very good. In fact, it was the second best in 20 years. We averaged 221 persons per Sunday in attendance. Nancy Pilkington, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave recommendations from her committee for officers and teachers for the 1988-89 church year. She reported that they did not have a nominee for Church Treasurer, as this position was offered to the current Treasurer, Marjorie Wooten, and she at first accepted and then declined. Darrell Horne, Assistant Treasurer, has agreed to fill this position as acting Treasurer until one is named. This committee's report was accepted and the committee was permitted to continue to serve and to nominate a Treasurer at the next regular meeting.



A called meeting was held October 2, 1988, after the regular Sunday night service. The announced purpose was to vote on accepting a gift from Joan Brogden in memory of her late husband, William Rodney Brogden. The Church voted to accept the gift of a "Public Address System" to be purchased from Mac Stewart Music Company and installed for a cost of \$3,600.00 plus tax. Other memorial gifts totaling \$70.00 have been received and will be used to refund the Church for paying the sales tax. The Board of Deacons made a recommendation given by John Pate that the Church adopt an "Official Memorial Gift Policy" of two year limit on the use of memorial gift funds. Then the Pastor recommended that the Church start a "Video Tape Ministry" and that the funds to purchase the equipment for this ministry be a portion of the Guy Best bequest as a memorial to his mother, Flora Neal Best, at an estimated cost of \$2,020.00 total. The motion was carried.

The Nominating Committee recommended that Darrell Horne be elected as Church Treasurer and Gordon Mozingo as Assistant Treasurer.

On October 12, 1988, recommendations from the Sunday School Council reported: That the joint Assembly of the Sunday School be discontinued as of October 23, 1988, and that two new classrooms be created for some new adult classes. A folding door has been donated to help create a room in the Education Building. The idea of constructing three new Sunday School rooms in the basement was introduced for study.

At the quarterly meeting April 5, 1989, Darrell Horne reported that the folding door had been installed providing a room in the Education Building. He also reported for the Basement Remodeling Committee that their proposal will give five classrooms rather than three and will add about 500 square feet more useable space by taking a portion of the hall leaving a six foot wide hallway. The low bidder for this project was Robert Hinnant at a cost of \$7,350.00. The Pastor recommended that \$6,000.00 of the Best bequest be used for this purpose. All motions were carried.

Even though we need rules to go by sometimes under certain circumstances, they may need to be broken. The "Memorial Gift Policy" passed on October 1988, called for a two year holding time limit on the use of a memorial. This caused concern in the case of the memorial gifts for Quinton Hare which amounted to \$882.00. During the two years after his death, the family had indicated to the Pastor their interest in a gift for the Church. Before a decision was reached, his widow Edna Mae Hare became sick and was incapacitated for several months. For this reason, the Policy Rules were rescinded on October 4, 1989, and the family of Quinton Hare recommended to the Church that the memorial fund given in his memory be used to purchase a wireless microphone system to be used in the sanctuary. This system would cost approximately \$800.00 and would be capable of using two wireless microphones. One would be a lavalier type and the other would be a hand-held microphone. The memorial fund will cover the complete cost of the system.

A called meeting was held June 14, 1989, immediately follow Prayer Meeting to take action on a recommendation to place \$1,000.00 that the Church had received in memory of Harold W. Lancaster into the Building Fund. This money was gifts given in memory of Harold Lancaster that were not designated for a specific use.

In the proposed budget for July 19, 1989, under the Organization and Educational section, Sue Williams made a motion that we increase the funds for the Senior Citizens Ministry from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00.

At the business meeting January 1, 1990: Gary Bailey, Pastor, made a recommendation that we establish a Senior Citizens Committee whose work would center around programming for our Senior Citizens and overseeing expenditures of our budgeted monies for that ministry. The following were to be elected to this committee for the remaining part of the church year. They were Dell Combs, Joan Brogden, Ann Best, Terri Sullivan and Freeman Crumpler.

The Board of Deacons submitted for information plans for the new building. The plans presented were drawn up to meet our three designated areas of need: (1) Fellowship Hall (2) Sunday School Rooms (3) Recreation Space. Ben Casey did an outstanding job of presenting a slide presentation showing the use of each area.

At our regular business meeting October 17, 1990: Greg Nichols, Chairman of the Building Committee, presented a concept drawing of plans that have been given as architect that includes five classrooms, two rest rooms, kitchen area and a large fellowship hall. He made a motion that this report be tabled until November 7<sup>th</sup> and that the plans be posted so that interested members may study the plans. The Building Committee would like to have their opinions. Bill Wiggs requested that copies be made of the plans and distributed to our members.

At the Called Meeting November 7, 1990, Greg Nichols stated that this meeting was to find out what type of building was needed to satisfy the needs of the Church. After a question and answer session, Terry Pilkington made a motion that we accept the initial concept as presented in October and that the Building Committee proceed to get a cost estimate from the architect and bring it back to the Church.

When the Church held their regular business meeting on January 30, 1991, the Building Committee asked to be allowed to meet with different architects and secure an architectural firm to provide schematics, design development, bidding and contract administration of a range of 6.5% to 8% based on a construction cost of \$130,000.00 to \$450,000.00.

The Board of Deacons recommended that the secretarial budget be increased by \$2,500.00 for the remainder of the fiscal year and that the Church hire Jimmy Wooten to work with the choir as Music Director on a trial basis through February 17<sup>th</sup>, working on Sunday nights only. Then the Church would decide if they wish to enter into a full-time commitment with him as Music Director. During any full-time work he will be paid at a rate of \$330.00 per month. During anytime that he works only on Sunday nights his pay will be one-half that amount.

On behalf of the Koinonia Class and the Sincere Sunday School Class, Randy Murphy requested permission to erect a flag pole on the church grounds. It will be in a lighted area so the flag can stay up at all times. Permission was granted.

February 26, 1991. Pastor Gary Bailey reported that he has inquired how to make application to get natural gas for our Church. There are two obligations we will have to meet before our application for gas is accepted.

(1) We will be obligated to pay connection fees from their line to our buildings. The cost is \$8.25 per foot and the top price we would have to pay is \$1,230.00

(2) We will be required to convert our existing units to natural gas. After a brief discussion, Linwood Smith made a motion that we make application for natural gas. Motion passed.

The Finance Committee recommends to the Church that we pledge \$10,000.00 to Mount Olive College to be used for its new dining hall project. This pledge will be payable over the next five years beginning with the 1991-92 Church Budget. We have just completed our second \$10,000.00 pledge on the College Hall project and this new pledge will not change our budgeted giving to Mount Olive College in any way that would differ from the past ten years. Preston Holland made a motion to accept the recommendation and Gordon Mozingo seconded it and the motion was carried.

April 17, 1991. Greg Nichols shared with the Church that a decision had been made to place our new building, a Fellowship Hall, directly behind the Sanctuary "across" the back and that the architectural firm of Dove-Knight from Rocky Mount, NC, had been secured to draw up floor plans and designs for this building project.

At the regular business meeting July 17, 1991, the Building Committee showed slides of the proposed building and answered questions. After a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of both tile and carpet to be used in the Fellowship Hall, a vote was taken and carpet will be installed. The Building Committee recommended that we put these plans out for "bids" and "prices" as soon as possible.

Darrell Horne gave the treasurer's report at our business meeting of July 17, 1991, carefully explaining both the quarterly report and the annual report. The report showed an income of \$204,807.47 for the 1990-91 year. On June 30, 1991, our total cash and investments were \$305,958.31 of which \$236,799.73 is in the Building Fund. Our net gain for the past 12 months is \$80,772.04.

The proposed 1991-92 budget calls for income and expenditures of \$208,131.00. Several of the line items or enterprises show an increase while others were decreased. The Nominating Committee's report was given by Phillip Jordan, Chairman, listing an approximately 170 people filling over 180 different positions within the Church.

Terry Pilkington reported from the Board of Deacons that Clifton Cuddington be recommended to Mount Olive College for the Free Will Baptist Scholarship fund for the 1991-92 academic year and that the license of Richard Holmes be renewed for one year as he further prepares himself for ordination into the Gospel ministry. A motion was made that we include Dwayne Bailey's name for recommendation to Mount Olive College for the Free Will Baptist Scholarship Fund for the 1991-92 academic year.

On Wednesday night, September 4, 1991, a business meeting was called. The purpose of the meeting was to receive recommendations from the Building and Finance Committees. Greg Nichols reporting from the Building Committee recommended that the Church award a contract to Daniels and Daniels to construct our proposed Fellowship Hall - Classroom Building as designed by Dove-Knight and Associates for a low base bid of \$424,950.00. Greg gave a rundown of the items we will receive along with the actual building. They include electrical service for the entire facility, septic system reworked, connector from Sanctuary to Education Building, preparations to have a handicapped lift to access all buildings, a drive through shelter on the new building, and new shingles for all existing roofs on our buildings. The time expected to construct is 270 days.

After releasing the contract our next concern was financing. Darrell Horne, treasurer, reported that the Finance Committee had figured we might need to borrow as much as \$250,000.00. They had checked with three local financial institutions and they recommended to the Church to get the loan from Branch Banking and Trust Company. Then at another called meeting on September 18, 1991, we took action on the report from the Finance Committee concerning the loan. The Finance Committee recommends that the Church get a loan of up to \$250,000.00 from Branch Banking and Trust Company for fifteen years at the BB&T prime rate plus  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  with adjustments to be made daily with changes in the BB&T prime rate. The maximum rate under this option will be 12% and the minimum will be 7%. Interest would be payable monthly during the construction period which we assume to be nine months. Upon construction, the loan will be repaid with one hundred seventy-nine (179) monthly fixed total payments of \$2,687.48.

Rev. Gary Bailey reported that work will begin on Monday, September 23, 1991. On September 4, 1991, we entered into an agreement with Daniels & Daniels Construction Company and on September 18<sup>th</sup> we agreed on the financing for this building. Sewage work has already begun by Quality Plumbing Company since this system had to be relocated.

A very moving act of humility and unity at this meeting was the signing of all the necessary contracts by our Board of Trustees: Clayton Everett, Elliott Futrell, Will Sullivan and our treasurer, Darrell Horne, and the meeting adjourned with everyone holding hands standing in a circle around the inside of the Church while Linwood Smith led in prayer.

The Board of Deacons recommended October 16, 1991, that Richard Holmes be examined for ordination by the Western Conference Ordaining Council.

A recommendation was made by Jimmy Malpass at a called business meeting December 4, 1991. The recommendation was that the church authorize the Building Committee to spend up to \$5,000.00 for necessary additions, etc. that may come up without bringing them before the church for approval.

Since becoming involved in building the Fellowship Hall at the business meeting on January 15, 1991, it was realized we needed to review our insurance with Church Mutual Insurance Company that we pay \$1,886.00 annually with a \$500 deductible. These values will be re-valuated prior to the completion of the new building so it can be added to the policy we already have with Church Mutual since they still have the best rates and have given good services in the past.

Pastor Gary Bailey reported for the Maintenance Committee. They had received a proposal to replace the heating and cooling system in the Church Sanctuary (that was installed in 1964) with a gas electric heating and cooling unit with Jackson and Sons. The unit recommended is a 17 ½ ton Trane High Efficiency Gas Electric Heat and Cool Unit for the Sanctuary. For the basement a Trane XL90 Super Efficient Fired Furnace and two ten inch ceiling diffuser type fans will be installed in the balcony for a total cost of \$18,400.00.

Jimmy Malpass reported that he had been informed by Jimmy Daniels representing the Daniels and Daniels Construction Company that we have a serious drainage problem and he advised that a drainage system is necessary if we pave the parking lot now or at a future date. The cost to add the necessary "catch basins" to drain the parking lot and to tie into the gutter down spouts on the new Fellowship Hall on the north side only will be \$6,385.00.

A called meeting to discuss purchasing tables and chairs for the new building was held March 4, 1992. The Building Committee recommended that the Church purchase 400 of the CHS 101 Polaris stacking chairs from Adirondack at a cost of \$32.50 each delivered, total cost of \$13,000.00, carrying a 30 year guarantee. (A sample was available for viewing.) The committee also recommended that we purchase 40 folding tables of particle board covered with formica in a walnut stain from Adirondack at \$64.42 each, totaling \$2,576.80. Total cost for chairs and tables amounted to \$15,576.80. We have already received gifts and pledges of almost \$5,500.00, and the Good News Sunday School Class has agreed to purchase 30 of the chairs.

At the regular quarterly business meeting April 29, 1992, Darrell Horne, treasurer, reported that the financial condition of the Church is sound. To date we have paid out a total of \$421,889.00 for architect, contractors, chairs, tables, etc. on the new building.

The Board of Deacons recommended that a committee be elected to study the responsibilities of those using or reserving our facilities and to establish guidelines to follow as far as upkeep. This committee is to be made up of the following people: one from the Men's Fellowship, one from the Youth Committee, one from the Board of Deacons, two from the Women's Auxiliary, and the chairman of the Finance Committee.

Also, the Board of Deacons recommended a committee be formed to study the landscape and decorating needs of our church and new building. This committee would have the responsibility of approving all gifts given to the church and being made up of the following members: One from the Men's Fellowship, one from the Board of Deacons, two from the Women's Auxiliary, and the chairman of the Maintenance Committee.



July 15, 1992. Because of the growth of our church membership, the Board of Deacons recommended a new deacon rotation policy. The purpose is to bring about a togetherness and sound continuity to our present system. We need a larger group of deacons in order to implement new programs and minister to a larger church family with a larger makeup and less frequent rotation. We will be better informed and kept up-to-date on our current programs.

It is for these reasons we recommend the following:

- (1) The number of deacons on the present board which is nine to be increased to 12
- (2) The term of active service at present is three years, to be increased to six years
- (3) That two deacons rotate off each year instead of the present three years
- (4) That the current board and their term of office would be as follows: (93) Thomas Pridgen, Don Sumrell; (94) Linwood Smith, Phillip Jordan; (95) Preston Holland, Terry Pilkington; (96) Gordon Mazingo, Doug Gurley; (97) Ron Bailey, Wesley Beddard; (98) Jeff Quinn and Mike Kirby.

The Board of Deacons recommended that Wesley Beddard be placed back on the active board for a term ending in 1997. Also that Jeff Quinn and Mike Kirby be ordained as deacons and put on the active board of deacons for a six year term after their ordination.

After Rev. Bailey reported that Brad Matthews plans to attend Mount Olive College in the fall, Bill Wiggs recommended that he receive the Free Will Baptist scholarship for the 1992-93 academic year.

A motion was made and carried that the Church Clerk send a letter of thanks and appreciation to Trey Taylor and his law firm for the work he did in preparation for the construction of our Fellowship Hall.

When the proposed budget for the 1992-93 year was given by Lewis Ipock, chairman of the Finance Committee, he mentioned several items had been increased and gave reasons. Naming Item 1 - Pastor's salary and Item 15 - Sexton's salary as the main topic for discussion. No concrete motion was passed so these two items will be studied and brought back before the Church in a called meeting on August 15, 1992.

At this called meeting, Darrell Horne gave an up-to-date report on the financial condition of the Church and gave a reconsidered salary proposal for the Pastor being a 5% increase over the 1991-92 budgeted salary. Danny Daniels presented a salary comparison for an employee versus a self-employed person. This report details what expenses the Pastor has to pay for himself and lists what an employee has paid by his employer. A motion was passed to accept the proposed salary for 1992-93. Several people spoke on the Pastor's behalf and about his devoted support to the Church.

The Finance Committee reported that the Sexton does not want an increase in his salary of \$700.00 per year. He feels being Sexton is something he can do for his church.

With the increase in our membership and added programs, the elected committee to work out the details before they are brought before the church for their vote of approval has proved to help keep unity and harmony in our desire to keep down confusion and strife in carrying out the business of the church giving more time for us to exercise our concerns for the unsaved souls and needs of mankind.

At a called meeting September 30, 1992: Linwood Smith, Chairman of the Deacon Board, made a special presentation regarding the Board's work and recommended that we hire Rev. Glenn Mills as Associate Pastor. He also gave a proposed job description. Trish Waddell, a member of the Youth Committee, Dean Williams from the Youth Church and Darrell Horne of the Finance Committee, joined in the presentation. After much discussion, Glenn Mills was hired as a full-time Associate Pastor with an annual salary of \$20,600.00.



October 14, 1992: Terry Pilkington, Chairman of the Use Committee, reported that we now have a "Rules For Use of Facilities Form." This form has to be completed when requesting to use one of our facilities and has to be approved by the Secretary or Pastor prior to the requested date being reserved. Approvals are listed on the church calendar naming the group or individual being responsible for clean-up and closing of the building.

April 14, 1993. Rev. Glenn Mills talked briefly on the value of prayer. He also discussed the 24-hour prayer chain that we would soon be signing up for whereby each member has a certain time slot to pray.

Linwood Smith, chairman of the Deacon Board, reported that the board recommended the following six young men to Mount Olive College for the Free Will Baptist Student Scholarship: Dwayne Bailey, Clifton Cuddington, Brad Matthews, Chuck Crumpler, Mack Pennington and Michael Wiggs.

The Deacon Board was authorized to spend up to \$1,500.00 with Dove-Knight and Associates for preliminary drawings and options for future growth and expansion of our Sanctuary.

Then at the July 14, 1993, business meeting Phillip Jordan, Vice-Chairman of the Deacon Board, presented the plans for the Sanctuary expansion from Dove-Knight and Associates for information only stating they would be posted in the Connector for study for several weeks.

The Board recommended Tracy Potts and Marla Horne for the Mount Olive College Free Will Baptist Student Scholarship.

Darrell Horne, Church Treasurer, gave the quarterly and annual report pointing out that the total income for the 1992-93 fiscal year was \$228,411.53. The total paid on the building mortgage this year was \$80,780.69 leaving a balance on the mortgage of \$88,857.76.

Lewis Ipock, chairman of the Finance Committee, reported on behalf of that committee and presented the 1993-94 proposed budget. He spoke on how the Lord had blessed us tremendously and commended that it is very possible for us to pay off our mortgage in full next year.

Information was presented by Pastor Bailey regarding a new outreach ministry for our Church. Handouts were made available that outlined a need for an after school care program including some suggestions for this program. If enough interest is shown in such a program, we will have a special called meeting to discuss the matter further.

A follow-up Called Business Meeting was held July 28, 1993, to discuss the After School Ministry with some recommendations from the Pastor and some suggested guidelines as to how this ministry might work and some handouts were passed out for our feedback. After much discussion and questions, Keith Combs made a motion that was passed that we accept the proposed recommendations for an after school ministry.

We had another called meeting on September 8, 1993, to hear some recommendations from the Board of Deacons.

(1) That Spencer Scott be returned to the Active Board of Deacons for a term of six years ending in 1999.

(2) That Danny Daniels, Keith Combs, Phil James, Bob Wiggs and Freeman Crumpler be elected to the Deacon Training Board for a six month period of training.

(3) We recommend that a fund be established for the purpose of constructing two signs on the Church property stating the name and denomination of the church--"The Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church." Money for a lighted brick construction on the western part of our property with a view from each way of highway 111 North has been pledged by an individual of the Church. The other sign will be a wooden structure painted white with black letters placed on the front lawn of the new Sanctuary on Stoney Creek Church Road. The cost of both signs will be approximately \$3,000.00.

We heard a brief report October 13, 1993, giving information on the after school ministry. Most parents prefer a child care for all day and all year long, and would like for all their children to go to the same place for convenience. The Committee will continue to work on this program.

Danny Daniels, Chairman of the Finance Committee, recommended that we vote in faith to have a note burning on December 26, 1993, for the Fellowship Hall. It was indicated later that the note was burned on that date with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Kay Gurley reported for the Gifts/Decorating Committee recommending that mini-blinds be purchased for all the windows in the Fellowship Hall and that chalk boards and bulletin boards be put in all the classrooms. A request by Peggy Evans on behalf of the Unity Circle was granted to put some window coverings over the top portion of the windows in the Fellowship Hall.

An experimental Early Church Service was being considered and information sheets giving full details were passed out. Beginning November 14, 1993, Early Service will begin for a 3½ month trial period. This could be a short-term solution to our overcrowding problems as well as open up a chance for people to come to worship that are unable to attend an eleven o'clock service. Prayer and help was solicited.

At the January 12, 1994, business meeting, Danny Daniels, Chairman of the Finance Committee, pointed out that we no longer owe Branch Banking & Trust Company.

At the April 13, 1994, quarterly business meeting, Wesley Beddard, Chairman of the Deacon Board, reported that the deacons recommend that Hy and Ryan Gray be recommended to the Mount Olive Free Will Baptist Scholarship.

Preston Holland made a motion that our fifth Sunday be designated as "Building Fund Sunday," and that all collections received that day will go into this fund. Motion was carried.

Jimmy Malpass, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported they had investigated the cost of paving some of the parking lot. Area (A) - The parking space on the east side of the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall from the Stoney Creek Church Road back to the septic tanks. (B) The area beside and in front of the Old Church and (C) The drive around the cemetery. This whole proposed area including grading, drainage, lighting, painting asphalt and marking off approximately 180 parking spaces could all be paved for approximately \$60,000 to \$65,000. This matter had been worked out by the Planning Committee and was passed by the church at a called business meeting on June 1, 1994.

The Planning Committee feels that the Church would need additional parking space in the near future and they would like the Church's permission to talk with the owners of the property bordering ours to the south near the cul-de-sac about the possibility of purchasing this property.

At the business meeting January 11, 1995: Wesley Beddard, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, made the following recommendations concerning vacation for full-time employees of Stoney Creek Church.

- (1) Years of service to be determined from date of employment.
- (2) Seniority rules in scheduling of vacation.
- (3) Vacation schedules will be authorized by the Board of Deacons.

Also, that full time employees with 1 - 10 years of service receive 14 days of vacation including no more than two Sundays. Employees with 11 years or more of service receive 21 days of vacation including no more than three Sundays. Recommendations were passed.

Glenn Mills urged the group to pray and to participate in the Witnessing Class in preparation for the upcoming United Crusade for Christ Ministry.

On January 30, 1995, Dr. Burkette Raper resigned as President of the College after giving them forty years and six months of faithful, spiritual and dedicated leadership. They were fortunate to get a well qualified replacement in Dr. J. William Byrd, a native of Mount Olive. The College is preparing to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the fall of 2001.

The College has provided educational opportunities to any deserving student of the denomination of the Original Free Will Baptist, and we feel these educational opportunities that Mount Olive College has provided has strengthened the denomination in many ways. Seven of its alumni serve in leadership roles with the Free Will Baptist ministries. One hundred and eleven are Free Will Baptist pastors. Others serve in the Sunday Schools, Auxiliary and leagues of our sponsoring denomination and as trustees, faculty and staff of the College.

The College was accredited in 1958. A branch was opened in Wilmington in 1995 and another in the Research Triangle Park in 1997. As the prayers go up, the blessings come down and as Mrs. Jean Ackiss, the College Director of Church Support, said: "God has a plan for Mount Olive College because he brought this College into existence in the beginning." It's been the faithful prayers and financial support of the Christian people that has brought Mount Olive Free Will Baptist College thus far.

On September 12, 1979, the Convention of the Free Will Baptist affirmed its commitment to help provide the leadership and financial resources required to make Mount Olive a fully accredited senior college. To meet the four year project, a timetable was set by the College Board of Trustees to add the junior year in 1984 and the senior year in 1985.

The regular business meeting met April 12, 1995. Wesley Beddard, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, made the following recommendations:

1. That Suzanne Bailey and Michelle Lee be recommended to Mount Olive College for the Free Will Baptist Scholarship.
2. That Odell Morris be recommended to the Western Conference for licensing for the Gospel Ministry.
3. That since the money has been pledged to cover the cost that we begin to broadcast our 11 o'clock Sunday Worship Service live on radio station WEQR 102.3 FM.

Ben Casey, Chairman of the Planning Committee, recommended that the church install a Wheel Chair Lift in the connector between the Sanctuary Building and the Educational Building. The Lift will be a three stop lift, providing lift access to the basement or sanctuary floor level. The Wilson Elevator Service gives a cost price of \$17,937. The wiring from our panel to the lift is not included in this price.

Mr. Casey also reported that the three lots which border our property to the South can be purchased from William Ray at a cost of \$5,000.00 each. The total cost of three lots will be \$15,000.00 plus survey, etc.

At a called meeting June 14, 1995: Wesley Beddard, Chairman of the Deacon Board, recommended that Heather Faircloth be recommended to Mount Olive College for the Free Will Baptist Scholarship. A request from the floor was heard that Scott McClain's name be added to this recommendation for a Scholarship.

Richard Glosson was recommended by the Deacon Board to the Western Conference for licensing to the Gospel Ministry.

Wesley Beddard told the congregation for information only that the Deacon Board had nominated our Pastor Gary Bailey for the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's award to be given on August 7, 1995. This is a \$1,000.00 award that is given for leadership, service, faithfulness, denominational service and community service.

If he fails to receive this special award we all know Gary excels in all these categories and many more that only God knows.

Since the Western Conference Board of Ordination has approved Odell Morris and Richard Glosson's licensing, Stoney Creek will proceed with licensing these two men into the gospel Ministry. Furthermore their certification of license will be presented during the 11 AM Worship Service on Homecoming Sunday, October 15, 1995. Our church pledges to support these men and their families with our prayers.

At the January 10, 1996, business meeting, the Board of Deacons recommends Rhett Green for the Mount Olive College Free Will Baptist Scholarship.

The Board of Deacons recommends that we establish the position of Associate Pastor of Visitation and Senior Citizen Ministry and that the church authorize the Board to begin a search for someone to fill this position and report back to the church for a final approval.

Glenn Mills, Associate Pastor, read a prepared statement concerning the money raised last fall for him to go to the Philippines. A friend, Barry Williamson, who is a licensed minister of Reedy Branch FWB Church and a full-time student of Columbia Bible College needs financial assistance for a mission trip to India. Glenn Mills recommended to the church that \$800.00 of the money raised for this trip to the Philippines be given to Barry to help him on his mission trip to India. A motion was made by Elizabeth Scott and seconded by Keith Combs to give the remaining amount of \$1,475.00 to Barry Williamson. That's how compassionate our Church is.

Rev. Bailey reported that Clifton Cuddington will be returning to Mount Olive College to earn a degree in Music and he was recommended for the Free Will Baptist Scholarship.

The Good News Sunday School Class and Darrell and Anne Horne expressed wishes to donate two silk flower arrangements for use in the Sanctuary in memory of Peggy Everett and Glen Horne respectively. The Gifts Committee agreed to accept this gift.

At a called meeting Wednesday, May 15, 1996--The Board of Deacons recommends to the Church that we name Glenn Mills as our Associate Pastor for the Senior Citizens and Visitation and that he begin these duties once an additional staff person is named by the Church to assume his current duties. The Board recommends that the Church begin to search for a candidate.

At our annual business meeting July 24, 1996, we realized our prayers were being answered when Wesley Beddard, chairman of the Board of Deacons, recommended that we hire Wes Boyd as our Youth Minister and he will receive a salary of \$23,000 yearly as proposed in the 1996-97 budget. Wesley gave a favorable description of his capabilities which have proved to exceed our expectations. Our Youth Ministry has reached out and influenced many families and brought new members to our Church where many souls have accepted Christ as their Savior.

The Board of Deacons recommended that we require potential members of the Church to have a consultation with one of our Pastors about our Church Covenant and Doctrine prior to presenting themselves to the Church for membership.

Robbie Braswell was recommended by the Board of Deacons for the Mount Olive College Free Will Baptist Scholarship.

The Pastor, Board of Deacons and the Finance Committee recommended to the Church that beginning January 15, 1997, that the Stoney Creek Church give 10% from all building fund receipts to the Original Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission Board. This 10% is to be over and above any budgeted amount for missions for the remainder of this budget year January 15 through June 30, 1997.

At the April 16, 1997 business meeting a report from the Finance Committee recommended that beginning with our next fiscal year in July 1997, we designate each first Sunday of the month as Building Fund Sunday and that all offerings received go directly into our Building Fund, except the 10% that will be sent to the Foreign Mission Board of our denomination and that fifth Sundays no longer be designated as Building Fund Sunday.



Ben Casey, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that Dove-Knight and Associates of Rocky Mount, our architectural firm, had completed plans for our three story classroom building and the Committee was working on last minute detailed changes after reviewing these plans. Charles King, Associate Architect of Dive-Knight and Associates, recommended that in order for the plans to be accepted according to the code of the 1997 building code, that we let these bids by December 31, 1997, if possible. Greg Nichols, a member of our Church, has been asked to draw up a cost estimate for this building. Mr. King also reported that the time of construction for this building would consume at least twelve months. Financing was our next concern, this being our annual business meeting of July 16, 1997. Darrell Horne, our Church treasurer, was asked to comment on this amount of money we have and the possibility of borrowing additional funds. He reported that we currently have \$260,000 in our Building Fund and that three lending institutions have offered to lend our Church from one to 1.5 million dollars for our next construction project. Mr. Horne reported that during the 1996-97 fiscal year our total income from offerings and interest was \$412,808.86. This was a record income for our Church.

In our proposed budget, we allowed \$1,000.00 for the City Missions, which David Wells requested it be released immediately because of great need at this time.

On Sunday night, July 13, 1997, at 6 PM instead of our usual worship service we had a special Celebration Service honoring our Pastor, Rev. Gary M. Bailey, for twenty-five years of dedicated service as an ordained Minister of the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination. The opening hymn was "To God Be the Glory." Then special recognition from his first pastorate was given by Mr. Walter Beddard from Elm Grove FWB Church. A letter from Rev. Fred Rivenbark, his fatherly advisor, was read by the Honorable Judge Arnold O. Jones. A summary on his second pastorate here at Stoney Creek Church was given by Phillip Jordan, Chairman of the Deacon Board. Response was by Wesley Beddard.

His service to the Original Free Will Baptist Church was given by Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of the Original Free Will Baptist.

A letter was read from Rev. Ronnie V. Hobgood, Co-director of the Christian Cadet Conference. There was a congregational hymn, "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee."

Remarks and Presentation of the Speaker - Dr. Bobby Taylor, Executive Director of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, NC.

Anthem - "Be The One" by the Choir.

Message - Dr. W. Burkette Raper, President emeritus and Director of Planned Giving for Mount Olive College.

Hymn "Lead On, O King Eternal," and benediction by Justin Bailey, son of Rev. Gary Bailey.

A reception hosted by the Stoney Creek Women's Auxiliary in honor of our Pastor was held in the Fellowship Building immediately following the worship services.

The members of Stoney Creek Church are sincere in their feelings of gratefulness and appreciation for the special leadership we have received from our Pastor, Rev. Gary M. Bailey.

Ben Casey gave an update on the classroom building October 15, 1997. He reported Greg Nichols has submitted a cost estimate and Dove-Knight and Associates have set up a meeting in Raleigh to see if the plans we have will meet the state's Day Care or Child Care regulations.

Phillip Jordan, Chairman of the Deacon Board, recommended that Stoney Creek Church recommend Candice Phillips to Mount Olive College for the Free Will Baptist Church Scholarship.

In order to encourage families with young children to attend our Wednesday night fellowship supper by subsidizing the cost of children's plates in the amount of \$2.50 per child. The Finance Committee recommends this money be paid from our Miscellaneous line in the budget.



Reporting for the Finance Committee, Curt Hinton stated at our business meeting January 21, 1998, that the Finance Committee believes we are financially able to move forward with our building plans.

Trey Taylor, a member of the Board of Trustees, reported that church has some old wooden chairs that have been declared surplus. Any interested person can turn in a sealed bid to the church office.

Ben Casey, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported for the committee and recapped the long range building plans established by the Planning Committee and Church in previous meetings: These are (a) construction of a classroom building. (2) construction of a new Sanctuary. (3) renovation of the present Sanctuary Building. The Committee has also discussed the need for a gym for our youth. Ben Casey and Charles King, our architect, explained that the plans were complete and ready to start the building process. Bids will be let to local contractors and will be due back on February 25<sup>th</sup>. When the bids are returned, the church can accept a proposal to build or reject all bids. Wesley Beddard made a motion that we allow the Planning Committee to let the bids by invitation for the proposed classroom building. Motion was seconded by Phil James. Motion was carried.

Due to the plans of the long range building program, the scarcity of space, it seemed feasible to do away with the deteriorating, obsolete educational building we built in 1958-59 so we can connect our new Christian Educational Center to the proposed new Sanctuary.

This proposed three story building, we feel, is an urgent need because of the growth in our Sunday School. In order to expand, we need to increase programs that will attract more people in order to teach them about salvation and a love for the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior.

First the connection to the other buildings was considered and a well planned connector to the Sanctuary and Old Church or "Big House" as we now call it, was updated in the North end. This building had to meet state regulations for the proposed day care that had been presented to a committee appointed to make plans and to study. This connector calls for a hallway with two outside doors descending from the Sanctuary to the long straight hall that reaches from the north end of the building to the south end. Stairs and an elevator to serve all three floors will be in the north end of the building so it can serve any future building that might be constructed on the Old Church property. Men's and women's large rest rooms will also be adjacent to any future construction and to the congregation of our present Sanctuary.

A larger nursery will average 590 square feet and be better equipped with each having a toilet and lavatory and is capable of serving 100 - 125 infants and toddlers, being built according to Day Care Standard & Codes.

The first floor contains office space, a utility with a washing machine and dryer, storage rooms, two sets of stairs, one at each end of the building, an elevator, two large restrooms, one for the men and one for the ladies, plus the five nursery rooms designed for the smaller children. A hall and a door to the outside about midway on the front western side of the building, plus the doors opening to the outside on the north and south ends of the long hallway, then another hallway connecting this building to the fellowship building, so traffic can get to the Sanctuary without going outside.

On the second and third floors is a large men's and ladies' restroom on each floor and three large classrooms with approximately 1000 feet in each one (six total). These rooms have folding panel walls making it easy to partition off giving extra rooms when needed. These rooms can be used when we have multiple requests for special meetings on the same date. Also, the larger classrooms will enable our classes to grow.

We lost four small classrooms when the Old Educational Building was demolished but the new building gives a net increase of 13 classrooms ranging in size from 490 to 590 square feet.

A called business meeting was held March 25, 1998. The purpose was to vote on recommendations from various committees concerning the building of our new three story Sunday School classroom building.

Ben Casey, chairman, reported for the Planning Committee: (1) The Planning Committee recommends to the Stoney Creek Church that we enter into a contract with Daniels & Daniels Construction Company for construction of our classroom building (the plans by Dove-Knight & Associates, architect) at a bid price of \$1,297,300.00. (2) Curt Hinton, Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee, recommends to Stoney Creek Church that we accept an offer from the First Citizens Bank for a loan of \$1.1 million. This loan will be amortized on a 15 year schedule and will be an interest rate of 7.45% which is fixed for the first eleven years, including one year for construction. Wesley Beddard made a motion to accept these recommendations. Keith Combs seconded. After comments from several people (all positive) the motion carried unanimously.

(3) The Board of Deacons and the Finance Committee recommends to the Stoney Creek Church that the church elect a six-member panel to study the feasibility of operating a Day Care Center for the daily care of children from birth to Kindergarten (After School care as practical) in our proposed classroom building and report their findings to the church. Curt Hinton made a motion to accept this recommendation. Bill Wiggs seconded. Several people made comments about how good this would be for our church and the service it would be for our community. The motion passed unanimously.

Old business was called for at our business meeting April 15, 1998, and a progress report was given on our new classroom building. A pre-construction meeting has been held with Dove-Knight and Associates, our architect, and Daniels & Daniels, our contractor. A starting date has been set for April 20<sup>th</sup>. The contracts have been delivered to our trustees for their signature. The commitment letter for our loan from First Citizens Bank has been signed and the loan papers are being drawn up.

New business. Pastor Gary Bailey asked permission to plan an official ground breaking ceremony for Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, at 10:35 AM so all our congregation can be present for the ceremony at Stoney Creek Church.

A verse from the book of Isaiah was used to challenge our members during the ground breaking ceremony for the new classroom building April 26, 1998. The Rev. Gary Bailey, Pastor, cited Isaiah 54:2: "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

The ceremony began with an invocation by Ben Casey, Chairman of the Planning Committee. This committee developed the plans for this building over the past several months as well as a master plan for the church's future buildings.

Following the welcome and comments by Gary Bailey, Pastor, a responsive ready was led by Wes Boyd, Youth Director. Then Phillip Jordan, Wes Boyd, Gary Bailey, Ben Casey, Julia Kirby, Dell Combs, Janet Malpass, Glenn Mills, Delbert Scott, Elliott Futrell, Paul Sullivan, Jay Westbrook, Bill Wiggs, Doug Honeycutt, Delores Gray, Kitzi Bass, Danny Daniels, Del Daniels and Darrell Horne, members of the church broke the ground as a symbolic beginning for the new building.

The new three story classroom building is being built in the center of the church campus, with approximately 18,000 square feet of classrooms space. At this date we have 500 active members with an annual budget of newly a half-million dollars.

The church held its annual business meeting July 19, 1998. Darrell Horne, Treasurer, reported for the Finance Committee: Total cash receipts for the quarter were \$144,177.69. This includes the regular offerings of \$86,776.16 and Building Fund of \$33,686.07. The quarterly disbursements were \$131,777.58. Total cash investments at the end of June were \$252,905.12.

The Board of Deacons recommends that the following church members be elected to serve on a Day Care Study Panel—Helen Baker, Nan Corrieri, Sandra Head, Arnie Jones, John Pritchett and Jim Stone.

The Board of Deacons recommends that Allicyn Bryan be recommended to Mount Olive College for the Original Free Will Baptist Scholarship.

We had 42 young people ages 11 - 18 make vows of purity in their lives on Sunday, February 14, 1999. These young people affirmed their true love for God, families, future dates, friends, future spouses and future children. They submitted themselves in obedience to God to remain sexually pure until the day they enter into a covenant marriage relationship and a lifelong commitment to a pure lifestyle from substance abuse, suicide and abortion. They confessed that they will depend on the truth of God's Word and His wisdom and the power of His "Holy Spirit" to keep their vow of a lifelong commitment to a pure lifestyle. We feel as a church we must embrace these young people and their parents in our prayers and support them by sharing encouraging words along life's way.

We are thankful for our Youth Director, Wes Boyd, and his wife, Marcey. It's through their leadership and well planned activity that our young people "who are the church of tomorrow" are being prepared to carry on the Lord's work. This program helps to keep them away from temptations and being with the wrong crowd and their influence which is so prevalent in our lives today.

The Planning Committee recommended to the church January 29, 1999, that we name our new classroom building the "Christian Education Center."

On Sunday night, February 21, 1999, Stoney Creek Church gathered to formally dedicate our Christian Education Center. It was a time of joyous celebration and praise to our Heavenly Father for his many blessings. An Open House was held prior to the dedication. Many of our people came by to tour the building during those two hours in the afternoon. We had a good representation of community people to stop by to view our building, and we were very happy to share with them what God has given us.

During the formal dedication service, Pastor Bailey, spoke of God's blessings and the responsibilities that come with those blessings. He quoted that Jesus said in Luke 12:8 from the NIV. "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

The Pastor also pointed out that in the history of Stoney Creek Church we have not asked the Lord to approve our plans, but we have been very careful to seek His will and His guidance in all the ministries that we provide. That has been most evident in the planning for our Christian Education Center and its construction and now in its use.

The Christian Education Center which encompasses nearly 18,000 square feet of heating and cooling space will serve as a nursery and classroom building. We now have some "extra" space which is a luxury we have not had in recent years, but with it comes responsibility to reach others with the Gospel message and to bring them in for Christian education.

Our church has recently received two significant gifts in memory of Terry Pilkington. The first gift from Nancy, Trevor, Trent and Thomas Pilkington in Christian artwork which will be displayed permanently in our Christian Education Center.

A second gift is from Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sullivan, a gift of directory boards which will be placed throughout the Christian Education Center. They will be a tremendous help as people move from place to place seeking classrooms or youth group meeting locations because these boards will display indications where various activities within our buildings are located.

We appreciate these two gifts and join these families in remembering Terry Pilkington. Appropriate pages will be added to our Memorial Book that is on display in our Sanctuary.

Also, Stoney Creek Church was given a 4.8 acre tract of land that is located behind the lots which we purchased just a few years ago. This land is between our lots and the Creek banks and was given by Mrs. Martha M. Ray. We appreciate this gift because it makes the church the complete owners of the area from the Stoney Creek Church Road all the way to the Creek west of Stoney Run Manor subdivision.

A large number of our church members have been practicing for sometime now on a magnificent Easter season production. "Journey to the Cross" that will be presented March 26 - April 3, 1999. Most of the men in the production have let their hair and beards grow to emphasize the look of that day. The general public is invited to attend this inspirational event, and experience hopelessness before the birth of Christ Jesus and the amazing announcement from "God to Mary" that she would give birth to his only son! The journey will take you through the baptism of Christ and His temptation in the desert, also His compassionate ministry of healing and miracles performed unto the people. While taking steps with the Master, you will be an eyewitness to the betrayal by Judas, the denial of Peter, and conspiracy of the Pharisees. The journey will conclude as you experience the agonizing trial, crucifixion and death of Christ and the astounding resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The main reason that we have this performance of "Journey to the Cross" is totally for outreach and not entertainment. Our desire is to reach the unsaved and help nurture Christians. Nightly, we offer the opportunity for the people to respond to what they have seen and experienced by having counselors under a tent set up at the end of the tour.

Those whose hearts are burdened for a family member, friend, co-worker, or neighbor who is unsaved are encouraged to make reservations for them and "take one to the cross" as was the emphasis as this year's theme and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

This presentation of "Journey to the Cross" will literally place you in the heart of action along Christ's journey. These walking tours are presented every 35 minutes nightly, accommodating thousands of people.

At our business meeting April 21, 1999, the Board of Deacons recommended that all applicants for the Mount Olive College Free Will Baptist be an active member of Stoney Creek Church for a minimum of 12 months prior to the date of application, and furthermore the church reserves right to withdraw the recommendation of any applicant who does not continue to serve the church while receiving the grant.

At a called meeting held on June 16, 1999, at Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church the Board of Deacons recommended that we call Rev. Richard Glosson to serve our church as our Associate Pastor. As Associate Pastor, Glosson will work with the Primetimer's Committee in coordinating programs and activities for our Senior citizens, all adult members sixty years or older. This group was organized in the late 1980's with around 150 members, and is led by an appointed committee of around six husbands and wives, including the Associate Pastor Richard Glosson and wife, Jodie. They schedule programs to keep these older citizens active, having at least one activity each month by including all celebrated holidays and decorating the Fellowship Hall and having a special meal with entertainment. The fourth of July cookout was completed with red, white, and blue decorations.

The Primetimers go on two kinds of sight seeing tours consisting of out of town trips either by vans or chartered buses for one day or several days and nights.

Education is vital to this group and special seminars with visiting speakers come to some of our meetings to explain certain issues such as long term care insurance, assisted living programs, pre-need issues and more.



Rev. Glosson has said “no matter how old you are God is not finished with you on this earth yet, even though they need to grow spiritually, they need help to prepare them for other things in life. There are a lot of things that people don’t know about making plans for the future and often need advice.”

Tuesday mornings are special for the Primetimers. Rev. Glosson holds prayer meeting with Bible Study at 10 AM. It’s not limited to the Primetimers or members of Stoney Creek Church. Everyone is welcome.

We have around 15 shut-in members who are unable to attend worship services, but they are not neglected. We have the video tape ministry of our worship services. The Primetimers and committee visit these people and send cards and letters. In fact, they are willing to do any job they are physically able to perform.

Our church members have supported with a great interest as well as donations to the Foreign Missions for many years. Around 1965 our pastor at that time, Rev. Joseph Ingram, and Gordon Mazingo, Preston Holland, Delbert Scott and a couple of men from another church visited some of the churches or meeting places in Mexico where they took an active part in their worship services. Even though their facilities were primitive in nature, maybe just a structure of wooden poles and bamboo walls with dirt floors, where they sit on wood or bamboo slats and sometimes on the floor, it was their sanctuary where they were protected from the weather, and the word of God was preached to those who wouldn’t have heard, had it not been for these dedicated missionaries that sacrificed their luxurious way of life to preach the gospel.

These past few years we have had groups from Stoney Creek Church who have supported the “Build One for Them” projects. Some have given their time and support by going in groups on the “short term” work program to the foreign mission fields and actually helping build better homes and places to worship.

One of our outreach ministries which started in 1997 and continued through 1999 was a donation of \$1,000.00 each year to help Dr. Joseph Grant, a local practicing Orthopedic surgeon, who served our Lord by donating his time and expert knowledge to work in hospitals in Kenya, Africa, sponsored by the Original Free Will Baptist Missions. His wife, Karen, and three sons, Joey, Danny and John, accompanied him to Africa.

At the business meeting July 21, 1999, we heard an annual report given by Nancy Pilkington, chairman of this year’s Nominating Committee, for the officers of the church and teachers for Sunday School. She thanked her committee for their many hours of work and dedication and made a motion that the church accept the committee’s report. Keith Combs seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Darrell Horne, treasurer, gave a Finance Report. Total offerings for the quarter were the regular offerings \$69,243.02, and building fund offerings of \$53,342.05 for a total of \$122,585.07. Total income for the quarter was \$165,388.65. Total quarterly expenses were \$138,278.17 with a net income for the quarter of \$27,110.48. Yearly regular offerings total \$343,809.15 and building fund \$43,362.64. Total income for the year was \$1,365,317.77 for the new building, furnishings, and interest owed First Citizens Bank. The amount owed on our Christian Education Center is \$932,246.62. The total cost of the building was \$1,481,846.09.

Curt Hinton, on behalf of the church, presented Darrell Horne a plaque and thanked him for his many years of dedicated service to the church as treasurer.

At the business meeting October 20, 1999, Phillip Jordan reported that the Board of Deacons are working on an operating manual for the church. Page one of this manual is called “Operating Policy of the Deacon Board and Finance Committee.” It outlines the responsibilities of each.



Lewis Ipock, Treasurer, reported for the Finance Committee on January 9, 2000. Offerings for the quarter were regular offerings \$133,566.86 and building fund offerings of \$33,768.92 for a total of \$167,335.78. The year-to-date budgeted items seem to be all on track, we have received 56.6% of our budgeted income.

In a called meeting Wednesday, March 8, 2000, Phillip Jordan, Chairman of the Deacon Board, presented recommendation that the church hire Jacky Young to serve our church as our "Buildings and Grounds Superintendent." He will be responsible for the buildings and grounds of our church and will perform as much of the necessary work of maintaining our facilities as he is capable of and will be responsible for arranging for other work to be done. He will work under the Senior Pastor within the confines of our adopted budget.

This will be a part-time position and Jacky will work on a schedule mutually agreeable with the Senior Pastor, three days per week, (8 hours per day, total 24 hours weekly) at \$15.00 per hour, total of annual salary as budgeted for 1999-2000 of \$18,720.00. He will furnish his own truck, equipment and mechanical tools. He will follow up on complaints and repairs necessary for our facilities and make certain all work and repairs comply with specifications and future construction activities and perform emergency repairs and maintenance as necessary.

Also, another recommendation was presented by Phillip Jordan, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, that the church operate a "Day Camp" for the summer on the following dates: June 5-July 28, 2000, under the conditions outlined. This Day Camp will be called the "All Stars" and will be an incredible ministry offered to our children who need a place to stay during the summer because of the growing trend of both parents working full-time. We have many families in our church and community who are searching for a solution. Our goal at "All Stars Day Camp" would be to provide a quality Christian environment and atmosphere.

The Day Camp will be for children ages 5 thru 12 years, with a \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee to cover initial set-up cost of shirts, supplies, snacks, etc. and will operate for 8 weeks June 5<sup>th</sup>-July 28<sup>th</sup>. It will begin at 6:30 AM and last to 6:30 PM Monday thru Friday. Each day will include Bible exploration, games, quiet time, snacks, crafts or activity time, lunch and free time. On some days they will take a field trip to skating, swimming, bowling, Dairy Queen, movies, parks, Exploris, library, Imagination Station, Teen Center, etc. All children have to attend all assigned activities. No children will be left on premises while others attend field trips.

Wes Boyd, Youth Director, will manage and coordinate the day to day operation with our "All Stars Day Camp." Justin Bailey will handle all the day to day operations, activity calendar, field trips, and employees' schedules. Marcey Boyd will handle all invoicing, billing, and attendance for the day camp. Justin and Marcey will also be Team B leaders for the 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Joan King and Trish Waddell will be Team A leaders for ages 5 thru 6. The following teenagers were hired to assist with Teams A & B for the summer: Diana Waddell, Jessica Murphy, Matthew Waddell, Kristen Andrey, Trent Pilkington, Jennifer Hall, Diane Yelverton, Starling Bogue, Mary Channing Bogue, Rhett Green, Heather Rogers, Chad Honeycutt, Shannon Prasad and Angie Prasad. Faye, Megan, and Travis Bartlett volunteered throughout the eight weeks. All adult employees will be paid hourly salary (approximately \$6.00 to \$8.00 per hour). The teens will be paid on an hourly salary (approximately \$5.15 to \$5.50) depending on experience. The "All Stars Day Camp" will operate at no additional cost to the church. Any profits would go into our Youth Fund. The cost would be a weekly charge of \$75.00 for one child and \$130.00 for two children.

We had a total of 70 participants register. Only 15 children were from Stoney Creek. We currently have at least four new families attending worship services as a result of the "All Stars Day Camp" of the summer 2000.

At the quarterly business meeting held on April 26, 2000, Bill Wiggs made a motion and George Williams seconded it that all building fund monies be paid toward our indebtedness the same quarter it is collected. Motion was carried.

The Board of Deacons recommended to the church that Jennifer James and Jessica Murphy be recommended to Mount Olive College for the Free Will Baptist Scholarship.

At the October 15, 2000, business meeting, the Planning Committee recommended to the church that in the future we will have a uniform plan for classes and groups that choose to landscape areas around the church. It is our hope that they will take portions of this plan as individual projects, and by that adding beauty to our grounds. We would also like for those that do take on a landscaping project to maintain that area until it is self-sustaining. Any work is to be coordinated with Jacky Young, our Buildings and Grounds superintendent.

On January 17, 2001, Wes Boyd, Youth Director, reported on the "All Stars Day Camp" held last summer (2000). The net income was about \$888. A lot of good things came about because of the Day Camp which means more than a net profit. Recommendations were made to operate "All Stars Day Camp" this summer July 4<sup>th</sup>-July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Some old business was brought to our attention on April 25, 2001. Arnie Jones reported for the Child Care Feasibility Panel. He reported that the panel had determined that child care is a feasible ministry for our church, but the issues of cost projections and operating costs as well as income are more suited to a Board of Directors. It is the recommendation of the Child Care Feasibility Panel of Stoney Creek Church that the church allow this panel to nominate a Board of Directors consisting of five members to research and report back to the church on the issue of involving initial cost, operating expenses, and operating income. The following were elected: Jerry Allen, Danny Daniels, Elliott Futrell, Darrell Horne, and Arnie Jones.

At the October 17, 2001, business meeting, Wes Boyd, Youth Director reported on Day Camp 2001. Mary Beth Williams was Director of "All Stars Day Camp". One hundred ten children were registered with a high weekly attendance of 91. This Day Camp provided these children with a Christian environment. Day Camp 2001 ended with cash and investments totaling \$2,519.83.

J. L. Gurley reported for the Board of Deacons: Recommendation that Stoney Creek Church operate "All Stars Day Camp" in the summer of 2002.

The Board of Deacons recommends to Stoney Creek Church that we charter a Boy Scout troop for our church community.

Jim Stone will be entering the Campbell University Divinity School and must have the recommendation of his church. The Board of Deacons recommends to Stoney Creek Church that we approve the following on his behalf. "Having evidence that Jim Stone, an applicant for admission to Campbell University Divinity School is: an individual of personal moral integrity; an individual of profound commitment to the Christian faith as evidenced by participating in the life of the church; an individual of emotional stability who is able to fill leadership responsibilities in church life, and an individual whom this church would recommend for a responsible role in Christian Ministry." We, therefore, express approval of his desire to enter the work of the professional ministry and pray for God's blessings on his success and dedication.

At our business meeting October 15, 2000, David Wells expressed thanks to the church for their support of the City Missions and that they are truly grateful, because it is through our willingness to help them that they can help others.

In the April 25, 2001, business meeting, the Planning Committee recommended to the church that the "Unity Circle" be allowed to furnish the old nursery room in the Sanctuary Building (off the vestibule) as a Parlor/Bridal room. The Unity Circle bought new furniture and accessories and requested that the church paint this room and the vestibule white which makes the entrance of the sanctuary more inviting. During the year of 2002 the old floor covering in the vestibule has been replaced with a white tile completing this room.

The Planning Committee also recommended that the church allow the Ambassador Sunday School Class in cooperation with several other adult classes permission to install windows in our Picnic Shelter (closing it in) at no expense to the church.

The June 3, 2001, bulletin reads "Thanks were expressed to all who participated in the United Church Ministries' Walk for the Hungry" that was held this past April. Our church raised \$2,015.63. A special thanks goes to Lou Kearney and Phil James for their hard work and leadership."

One of the outreach ministries we have been supporting is the "Biblical Truth Counseling" with Sandy Grubbs Sasser as counselor. This is a Christian counseling facility that provides quality Biblical counseling to hurting people in need of a Godly direction. Our support will enable the Stoney Creek Pastoral Staff to make referrals for counseling to Mrs. Sasser, a trained counselor. The first three visits for anyone we refer will be free. Other visits will be on affordable scale. We also have shared office space at different times with Mrs. Sasser.

For many years we have had leading adult members of our church that were willing to work with our young boys of this community through the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. This is a world wide organization for boys founded in England in 1908. Its chief aims are to promote manliness and self reliance. Their main activities promote outdoor life and how to survive.

We having been sharing our facilities with the Scouts by allowing them to have their weekly meetings here at the church.

On July 18, 2001, the Board of Deacons recommended to the church that we charter the Boy Scout Troop, and then October 17, 2001, the Board of Deacons recommended that we charter a Cub Scout Troop which was currently meeting here at the church. This pack's charter is up for renewal January 31<sup>st</sup> and they have requested that our church become the chartering organization of the American Boy Scout Troop 581.

The Scouts have at least one Sunday each year that they attend church in a body and take a part in the morning worship service. At this time awards are presented to those who have achieved certain accomplishments during the year.

Recipients are supposed to represent the 12 points of the Scout Law. These points are gained by their being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Darrell Horne, Treasurer, reported for the Finance Committee. He said that offerings for the first quarter July - September 2001 were the largest in our church history. On December 23, 2001, at the morning worship service the offering of \$51,531.00 was the largest ever taken. Darrell stated that since he took the treasurer in 1988, that each quarter the offering had been higher than the same quarter of the year before. That is a remarkable record. The Lord has certainly poured out his blessings on our church and we are so thankful for each soul that has accepted Christ as their savior through this ministry. At this time we have a total of 554 active members and almost 200 inactive. We have had steady increase in attendance for the past few years, which proves that providing extra space has paid off.

For several years members of our church have supported "The Samaritan's Purse" sponsored by the Franklin Graham Crusade. This is a nonprofit organization that helps unfortunate people that have experienced misfortunes due to bad weather that destroyed their homes and most of their personal belongings. Christmas gifts of wash cloths, soap, hair brushes, combs, tooth brushes, tooth paste, and other personal items are packed by the individual in shoe boxes and shipped through and by this crusade to those needy families by transfer trucks. The freight on these boxes is also paid for by personal donations.

On March 17, 2002, our church was invited to attend the "World Mission Conference" sponsored by our Board of Foreign Missions being held in College Hall on the campus of Mount Olive Free Will Baptist College. Our Senior Pastor, Gary Bailey, was speaker at the 7 PM worship service.

In our worship service March 24, 2002, Pastor Bailey reported Stoney Creek Church was the leading church in the denomination in supporting the Original Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. He explained that was the results of our commitment and at our January 15, 1997, business meeting that we would give 10% from all building fund receipts to the Original Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission Board. This 10% is to be over and above any budgeted amount for missions. As a result of this report, another church Sandy Plain Free Will Baptist Church near Pink Hill, in their business meeting decided to make the same commitment. They had a savings account of \$85,000.00 and decided to give 10% of that also.

It's true that we stepped out in "faith" and the Lord blessed us. In our budget for 1998-99 we proposed \$26,500.00 and actually received \$28,019.30.

We realize we have been blessed over and above our required necessities and it's true these blessings come from prayer and dedication that makes our church grow in faith and membership. Our leadership has been astounding also.

In the bulletin April 14, 2002, "You will be pleased to learn that Stoney Creek is listed in the Mount Olive College 2000-2001 President's Report and Honor Roll of Donors. We were listed in the "Foundus Society" level of giving (in the category of those giving \$10,000 to \$24,999. Our church is the only church listed in that category. Your faithful giving week by week to our church enables us to share in the Christian Ministry of Mount Olive College."

Darrell Horne, a member of Stoney Creek Church and the chairman of the Board of Directors of M.O.C. writes in the report. "During the 2000-2001 academic year, Mount Olive College served over 2,400 undergraduates and working adults. These students are achievement-oriented and optimistic about their futures, even though many grew up in economically disadvantaged families. Providing an education to so many worthy, but needy students is part of the state that enriches families, communities and local business as well as the young people themselves."

On April 28, 2002, at the 7 PM worship service, Scott Foy, a member of our church, presented a balloon ministry for all ages, known as the "Cornerstone Ministry." He presented the Gospel message of Jesus Christ by using balloons tied in different shapes and colors to emphasize a more spiritual understanding.

Here at Stoney Creek Church for the past several years we have given the teens (grades 6th-12th) the opportunity of being in charge of all the activity of that day. Sunday, April 21, 2002, they led our worship services. One of the teens was assigned to teach each of the adult and children's Sunday School Classes, hand out bulletins, and greet the people as well as fill in for the ushers. Todd Putnam led the worship service while different ones led in prayer and welcomed the congregation. They filled the choir loft and rendered special music featuring contemporary Christian type music by the "Big House Band" and choir. Shellie Hodge and Luke Pearson were the speakers during both the 8:45 and 11 AM services. It was truly their day and we are thankful for all the youth that God has placed in our care. May He use each of us to instill the passion of prayer and a hunger for His word in their lives. As a church we are



blessed with dedicated parents who are faithfully encouraging, supporting, and transporting our youth to various programs and activities. We are extremely thankful for our volunteers and each person that gives even a small amount of their time to our youth ministry and especially our Youth Minister Wes Boyd and wife Marcey. These youth are our church of tomorrow.

May 5, 2002, was known as Senior Adult Day or Primetimer's Day. Our Senior Citizens served as greeters, passed out bulletins, acted as ushers, and played the musical instruments, led in prayer, and filled the choir loft singing a special song, "What If It Were Today" led by Edward Wooten. Our Senior adults, the oldest woman, oldest man, and those married the longest were honored by the Primetimer's Committee. Dr. W. Burkette Raper was our speaker using the "Advantage of Aging" for his topic. He lead us through many experiences of growing older and stated that out of one hundred original Free Will Baptist Churches, Stoney Creek is the only church that has a paid full time minister for the older adults. After the worship service we met in the Fellowship Hall for a catered lunch and entertainment by Sylvia Center and the Rockin' Chair Players from Wilmington, NC.

Each year the members of Stoney Creek Church contribute financially to our children's ministry by assisting some of our needy people to attend summer camp by placing listings in our Mother's, Father's, and Grandparents' Day bulletins, along with a "Sweet Heart" bulletin on Valentine's Day. Members list the names of people they would like to honor or remember on these special days, by writing their names on envelopes which are provided for this purpose and including \$1.00 for each person listed. These bulletins printed from these names listed have proved to be very interesting as well as helpful in sending some of our young people to camp that might have not gone without these funds. Our children have two camps in which to choose-- Christian Cadet Camp at Cragmont or Big Stuf in Panama City, Florida, a spiritual retreat.

In May 2002, Stoney Creek Church launched a new campaign called "See What a Dollar Can Do," by reaching out to a new mission church in our community. The Blended Fellowship is a mission church sponsored by the Cape Fear Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist with Rev. Doug Seymour as Pastor. This Church is reaching out to the hearing impaired by using sign language in all their services. This Church is also reaching the Hispanics in our community. They are truly a Blended Fellowship.

For five Sundays, everyone was asked to drop one dollar in the offering plate that was provided as they left the sanctuary. This dollar was to be beyond our regular giving. Our Church reached beyond itself to help others with a check mailed to Blended Fellowship for \$1,129.96. Later the Friendship Sunday School Class sent another check for \$200.00, totaling \$1,329.96 donated.

May 15, 2002, marked a historic day in the life of Stoney Creek Church. This was the Sunday set aside to begin our third Sunday morning worship service and a second Sunday School. This new service will feature contemporary Christian music and will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 AM. The second Sunday School will be at 11 o'clock which is the same time as our traditional worship service in the Sanctuary. The regular Sunday School will meet at the usual time of 9:45 AM.

Called business meeting on May 15, 2002. The Board of Deacons recommended that the church hire Kerrie Clayton, a member of Sidney Original Free Will Baptist Church, Belhaven, North Carolina, to serve our church as a full time "Director of Music." Her starting date will be July 14, 2002, when her music internship ends at Cherry Hospital. Meanwhile, Kerrie will be serving as intern Musician and Choir Director for our Adult Choir in the 11 AM Worship Service and the Contemporary Service at 9:45 AM, since Jimmy Wooten, our present Adult Choir director, has asked to take a couple of months off this summer for travel and leisure, and retirement for him was welcomed.



For some time now, the leaders of our Church have felt that we were understaffed, since we have experienced a tremendous growth in our attendance and a need to add on the third worship service on Sunday morning at 9:45 AM. Up until now, we have had an adult choir director on the payroll, but have counted on volunteers to work with the youth and children of the church.

Music is considered the center of a worship service. God's people have honored the Lord throughout the ages by singing praises and giving God the Glory in song ministry. He deserves our honor on a broader scale than ever before since he has so generously poured out his blessing on this church by answering prayer.

After Kerrie received a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy from East Carolina University in December 2001, we felt it was an answer to our prayers that God put her on our doorstep as the old saying goes. When in the winter of 2002, she came to Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, NC, where she served as a Music Therapy intern by leading group activities for psychiatric rehab patients using music and other creative and expressive arts.

As a full time employee and as a music director, Kerrie's objective is to use music to glorify God throughout our church. She has been a member of Sidney OFWB Church since September 1986 and has knowledge of the Original Free Will Baptist Doctrine and has been active in denominational activities such as Youth Convention, Ladies' Auxiliary and Sunday School Institute. She will be eligible for a certification in Music Therapy in July 2002 and is a licensed Kinder Music Educator and instructor of private piano, guitar and flute.

After coming to this area to live while doing her intern, she visited some of the other Free Will Baptist Churches, but God had his plan for her, so he sent her to our church as an answer to our prayers and needs. Kerrie knows music well and has the ability to lead a comprehensive music ministry for Stoney Creek Church by assisting the Pastor in planning our worship services, including the selection of music and other services elements fitting to the worship theme and Pastor's sermon. She will arrange for special music and musicians needed for special musical presentations by directing choirs, praise teams, ensembles or vocalists in rehearsal and presentation of music. She will provide resources to help establish and maintain a children's choir, youth choir and/or handbell choir, train singers in choral techniques, appreciation of worship and music, and supervise the work of all music leaders in the music ministry.

Kerrie wrote her goals and aspirations for our church as she begins her work with us. She said she had been in music most of her life and knows and understands the power of God's gift of music and how music expresses our deepest feelings. The love and gratefulness that she feels toward her Lord and Savior is often too great for words, so she can express her devotion and worship God through music. Here at our church her goal is to encourage others to express their love and praise through music.

Jimmy Wooten has served our church for eleven years as Choir Director. He has led our choir and our congregation to great levels of music and worship. We are grateful for all he has done. At the end of the summer, we plan to have a service of appreciation for Jimmy for his service to the Lord and our church.

May 17 & 18, 2002. For the past several years, our church has participated at the Wayne County Chapter of the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life." This event was held May 17 & 18 at Eastern Wayne High School. Money was raised by selling purple ribbons and luminaries and by donations. All money raised was used for cancer support such as medication, support groups, research and scholarships for childhood cancer victims. It also helps pay for experimental treatments that many insurances will not cover. Stoney Creek Church had 55 people from the church walking on our team. Through gifts from various groups, Sunday School classes, businesses and individuals, our church team raised \$4,100.00 for this worthy cause. Melody H. James was our church's captain for this event.

On May 25, 2002, we had the greatest attendance ever on Sunday morning for worship service except on a special holiday. At 8:45 AM - 170; 9:45 AM - 198 and 11:00 AM - 255 for a total of 623. Our prayers of sincerity and boldness to follow the Lord's leadings to share the ministry have once again strengthened our faith and our church materially.

On June 5, 2002, a "Summer Fun Bible Club" was held every Wednesday night from 7:00 - 8:00 o'clock. It started June 5<sup>th</sup> for children ages 4 - 12. Mary Beth Williams and Company were in charge and taught these children about Jesus through songs, telling stories and doing handmade crafts along with other summertime fun things. An average of 35 children attended. This is fill in for the group known as "Team Kids" that meets at this same time during the public school term, playing games, memorizing Bible scriptures and other Bible study.

Each fourth Sunday night we have 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades meeting for a Bible Sword Drill with Melody James as their leader. They learn the Books of the Bible by name and where they are located. The whole purpose is to see who can find certain scriptures first.

June 17 - 22, 2002. The Christian Cadet Camp at Cragmont was held June 17 - 22. Counselors from Stoney Creek Church were Wes Boyd, Kerrie Clayton, Del Daniels, Lisa Gurley, Cindy Kimble, Shannon Prasad, Jan Stone, Mary Beth Williams, Gordon Mazingo, Dawn and Stewart Gardner.

We had around 60 campers from Stoney Creek to attend. It's a great week for our children and youth to strengthen or begin a new relationship with their Heavenly Father. This Christian Cadet Camp is held at the Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC. Each year these campers are bussed from Free Will Baptist churches throughout this area.

On July 7, 2002, forty-two from our church, 33 student teenagers and nine adult leaders departed for Panama City, Florida, to attend the Big Stuf Camp III, a spiritual retreat at a Board Walk Beach Resort. This is an interdenominational camp meeting where thousands of teenagers meet yearly to enjoy different types of worship services, and experiences with each other through the blessings of the Holy Spirit that strengthened their faith and love for the Lord as well as praise and rededication. They came home full of excitement and passion for Jesus Christ.

The Christian people here at Stoney Creek join together each Lord's Day to worship the one true and living God, to strengthen our relationship with Him and one another. Our guests are offered a special welcome and thanks for meeting with us and a sincere prayer that they have been spiritually enriched.

Services start each Sunday with Men at Prayer at 8 o'clock. The Early Worship Service meets in the Sanctuary at 8:45 AM. Regular Sunday School and the new Contemporary Worship service meet at 9:45 AM and the traditional worship service meet in the Sanctuary and the second Sunday School at 11 o'clock.

#### Author's Note.

I have always had a special interest in our back generations, but I would not consider myself as a historian. But since our Pastor, Rev. Gary Bailey, asked me to write the History of the Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, I decided to take the challenge. I felt as a part of this religious body or denomination it was important that we have a better knowledge of what our Christian family has experienced to become what we are today.

These past three years of research have been time consuming but very rewarding. I am happy to share my findings with those who know only about our modern way of life. We have so much to be thankful for today with modern church facilities to worship in and Christian families that share their love for each other and work together to promote the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our prayers are truly being answered by increasing our attendance and the souls that are being saved. My prayers are that God will continue to bless us.





